



13/3/TO 13/3/T

#### FAMILY HISTORY

OF

## JAMES SMITH

#### ERRATA:

PAGE v.-"Only Churches in Coventry where Registers" add "of Baptisms."

PAGE viii.—Should read "his great-grandson."

Page 16.—"Date 1770" should have been added; and at the bottom of the page it should read "and at Birmingham and at Lichfield."

PAGE 24.—"Surrounded the garden" read "bounded."

Table 2.—Read "Farrer" instead of "Arfrer."

[This is correct in most of the copies printed.]

Table 5.—"Heywood Sumner, b Oct. 14, 1853" not "April 6, 1861."

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#### NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS

CONCERNING THE

### FAMILY HISTORY

OF

# JAMES SMITH

OF COVENTRY

(B 1731 — D 1794)

#### AND HIS DESCENDANTS

WITH TABLES OF PEDIGREES

COMPILED BY

#### LADY DURNING-LAWRENCE

PRIVATELY PRINTED

BY

TRUSLOVE & BRAY, LTD.

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1912



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#### PREFACE.

I HAVE been requested by some of my younger relatives to collect a few facts relating to the older members of our family. I have not carried this history beyond the grandchildren of James Smith, but blank pages are left at the end of this book in order that each branch of the family may continue the story.

Where I have supplied dates I believe that they are reliable, but the various families of the name of Smith are so numerous in Coventry that it is sometimes impossible to distinguish one from the other, especially as the names Thomas, James, and Elizabeth, which appear to belong to totally different families, occur over and over again in the Registers of St. Michael's Church and of Holy Trinity, which are the only churches in Coventry where Registers existed prior to the year 1800. I believe that I am correct in saying that James Smith was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth

Smith. Of their marriage, however, there appears to be no entry either at St. Michael's Church or at Holy Trinity, and this makes it extremely difficult to trace the Pedigree farther back than 1731.

There are certain family traditions such as, for instance, that my father said he remembered a gold-headed cane, with a smelling bottle on the top, which he understood had belonged to a Bishop who was a member of the family. It was believed also that there was at one time family property in Northamptonshire. These stories may or may not be true.

One tradition, however, is so persistent in every branch of the family that I consider it worthy of credence, viz.: that Elizabeth Bucknall, the second wife of James Smith, was a lineal descendant of John Foxe, the Martyrologist. My efforts to trace her lineage, however, have failed as there is no register of her birth at Coventry.

My father used to say that he remembered a wooden tray, and a small pair of iron tongs for putting coal on the fire, which were said to have

belonged to Foxe, and he also remembered a copy of the work familiarly known as Foxe's "Book of Martyrs," which was bound in the original wooden boards and printed in black letter with quaint woodcuts.\* This book, which he read as a boy with fascination and horror, he thought had been preserved in his uncle's Library at Strangeways Hall, but at the time of the sale there in 1859 he failed to discover it.

In a few cases there are discrepancies of dates

" Note.—The title of the first edition of Foxe's great work is as follows:

## ACTES

#### and Monuments

of these latter and perilous dayes, touching matters of the Church,

wherein are comprehended and described the great persecutions & horrible troubles, that have bene wrought and practised by the Romishe Prelates, speciallye in this Realme of England and Scotlande, from the yeare of our Lorde a thousande, unto the tyme nowe present.

Gathered and collected according to the true copies and wrytinges certificatorie as wel of the parties themselues that suffered, as also out of the Bishops Registers, which wer the doers thereof.

#### By John Foxe.

¶ Imprinted at London by Iohn Day, dwellyng ouer Aldersgate. Cum priuilegio Regie Majestatis.

[1563]

between those given in Diaries, or on tombstones, and the Parish Registers. In the Pedigree tables the dates in the Registers have always been taken as correct. Quotations from Diaries or tombstones are actual transcriptions.

All the papers which I have been able to collect, referring to Peter Edwards, I have handed over to his grandson, Mr. T. Reginald James, of The Pikey, Gresford, Denbighshire.

All letters, books and other references, which I have been able to collect, concerning the Smith family, I have handed over to Henry Wilson Smith, of Colebrooke Park, Tonbridge.

## EDITH J. DURNING-LAWRENCE,

Younger Daughter of JOHN BENJAMIN SMITH.

13 CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE.

1912.

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#### PLATE I.

TOMBSTONE AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, COVENTRY.

ALCOTT

SCULA

In memory of JAMES SMITH, who departed this life November 19th. 1794 in the 63 year of his age.

Also MARY COOPER, died September 23rd. 1795. Aged 23 years.

Likewise ELIZA, wife of the above JAMES SMITH, died July 23 1810.

COVE

NTRY

Sepanined the above Augt 29. 1885.

Solvin Burning haw were 1st

March 30. 1912

PLATE I.

## JAMES SMITH.

#### 1731-1794.

See Pedigree, Tables 1, 2, 5, 11.

James Smith was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Smith. He was born at Coventry, and his baptism is registered at St. Michael's Church, January 31st, 1731. The baptism of his sister, Elizabeth, is also registered in the same church, March 14th, 1732. See Pedigree, Table 1.

The marriage of Thomas and Elizabeth Smith does not appear in the Register of Coventry either at St. Michael's Church or at the Holy Trinity, nor has it been possible to trace anything respecting them, or of their daughter Elizabeth, beyond her baptism. It seems therefore possible that they may not have been natives of Coventry.

James Smith was a silk throwster at Coventry, and is reputed to have been a man of considerable means although his name does not appear upon the roll of the freemen of that city.

Concerning him, his grandson, the Rev. John Henry Smith, writes that he remembers that his father, Joseph Smith, "used to speak of him very admiringly as a man of fine mind, with great power of eloquence. A generous souled man, with a noble voice and good



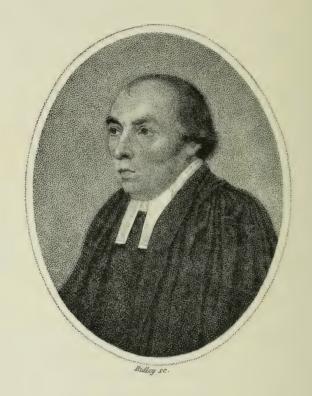


PLAN OF CHURCHYARD

musical talent. His fine voice proved his bane, for through his love of music and company, he neglected his business, and when he died, his widow and family were left ill provided for." He died November 19th, 1794, and was interred on November 23rd, in the churchyard of Holy Trinity, where his tombstone will be found a little north of the west door, close to the paved walk. See Plates I.—II. In 1912 the earth, which partially

#### PLATE III.

REV. PETER EDWARDS, OF WEM. FACSIMILE OF A PORTRAIT IN THE "EVANGELICAL MAGAZINE" OF APRIL, 1805.



Rev Peter Edwards, Wem! Shropshire!

Lub. by Williams & Smith , Stationers Court . I. Dec. 1805.

PLATE III.

covered the tomb-stone, was removed and the stone, which was found to be in perfect condition, was raised a few inches above the ground by a brick wall and the inscription was re-cut. His burial is recorded in the Register of this church.

James Smith was twice married. Firstly to Miss Bromwich, of West Bromwich, where her family at one time owned much of the land. See Pedigree, Table 2. By her, he had one daughter, Martha, who was apprenticed to a "Mantua" maker in Coventry, and who married in 1776, as his second wife, the Rev. Peter Edwards, an Independent Minister, at Wem, in Shropshire, of whom a Biographical Sketch is given in the "Congregational Magazine," December, 1833, written by Sir John Bickerton Williams, a solicitor who retired from practise in 1841 and who resided at "The Hall," Wem. Peter Edwards was born in Willow Street, Oswestry, on July 23rd, and was baptised at the Parish Church, August 4th, 1751. His father (Peter Edwards) is described in the Register of Births as a Slater and Chandler.

The Rev. Peter Edwards was baptised and trained in the Church of England, and entered the Ministry as a Baptist, at Portsea. Later he renounced Baptist views in a book,

entitled "Candid Reasons," etc., and in 1795, he became an Independent Minister at Wem, where Joseph Pattison was for a few years his colleague and afterwards became his successor.

The Rev. Peter Edwards was a man of considerable ability, learned in Hebrew and Greek. He wrote a large number of books, four of which will be found in the British Museum, and one of these, "Candid Reasons for renouncing the Principles of Antipædo Baptism," published in 1795, was republished as recently as 1881.

His portrait was engraved in the "Evangelical Magazine" of December, 1805, a facsimile of which is given in Plate III.

A facsimile is also given on page 10 of a pencil sketch, probably made by Thomas Smith, Jun., which is now in the possession of Mr. Henry Wilson Smith. A similar sketch is in the possession of Mr. T. Reginald James.

The Rev. Peter Edwards was always looked up to with loving affection by the children of James Smith's second marriage, who were constant visitors at Wem. He was loved even for his eccentricities, and the following story was often related concerning him. He never took more than one

#### PLATE IV.

REV. PETER EDWARDS. FROM A PENCIL SKETCH SAID TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY THOMAS SMITH.



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REV. PETER EDWARDS. FROM A PENCIL SKETCH SAID TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY THOMAS SMITH.

sleep during the night and at whatever hour he awoke, he immediately got up and dressed. If it were winter or cold, he lighted his fire and began to study Hebrew. When asked how he managed, if he felt tired during the day, he used to reply mildly, "Oh, when I am tired I go to bed, and when I awake, I get up."

He had six children, and the dates of the births of the four who grew up are entered by his own hand in the Baptismal Register of Wem Independent Chapel. This Register is now at Somerset House. Peter Edwards died on Sunday, 25th August, 1833, in his eighty-third year, and was buried the 31st August, in Edstaston Churchyard, a few miles from Wem.

The Edstaston Parish Register gives the following entries:

Burials.—19th July, 1825, Martha Edwards, of Wem, aged 73 years.

31st August, 1833, Peter Edwards, of Wem, aged 83 years.

Mr. Thomas James, in his Diary, gives the account of the death and burial of Mrs. Martha Edwards and also of the Rev. Peter Edwards, and says that the following inscription was

on their tombstone in Edstaston Church-yard:

To the Memory of
The Rev. Peter Edwards of Wem
Who died the 25th August 1833
Aged 82

Also of Martha his Wife who died 13 July 1825 Aged 72

Of the four children who grew up, Petronilla, the eldest, seems to have been the only one who married. In the Wem Parish Register is the following entry:

> September 17th, 1806. Thomas James and Petronilla Edwards by licence. By Edward Tucker Steward, Rector. Witnesses, Peter Edwards, John Pidgeon and Merena Edwards.

Thomas James, familiarly known as "Tommy James," was also a great favourite. He kept a voluminous Diary, from which several important extracts are given in the following pages. He had one son, John, born August 13th, 1807, died May 1st, 1888, who was married three times, and who has left a large number of descendants. See Pedigree, Table 2.

#### PLATE V.

Pencil Sketch on paper watermarked 1801, of Eliza[beth] Smith, in the possession of Henry Wilson Smith.



PLATE V.

Pencil Sketch on paper watermarked 1801, of Eliza[beth] Smith, in the possession of Henry Wilson Smith. James Smith married secondly, Eliza [beth] Bucknall (See Plate V., page 14, and Pedigree, Table 5), and the following entry is in the Register of Marriages at St. Michael's Church, Coventry, in the year 1765, page 235, No. 955:

James Smith, of the Parish of St. Michael's, and Elizabeth Bucknall, Parish of St. Michael's aforesaid. Married in this Church by licence, this, fifth day of January, in the year One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixty five, by me, Nathaniel Gerard, vicar of the Holy Trinity.

This marriage was solemnised between us James Smith Eliza Bucknall in the presence of John Bucknall, John Jones.\*

No record of the Baptism of Elizabeth Bucknall has been found in the Registers of St. Michael's Church or of Holy Trinity.

James and Elizabeth Smith had four sons—Thomas, Benjamin, Joseph, and Joseph. It is disappointing to find no entry of the

<sup>\*</sup> Note.—This entry is in a volume of printed forms, filled up in writing. All the signatures are very good. John Bucknall's signature is that of a young man. John Jones was Parish Clerk, and is witness to the majority of the marriages.

Baptisms of the two elder sons either at St. Michael's Church or at Holy Trinity. It would have been interesting to have located the early residence of James Smith, and also to have known the date of the birth of Thomas Smith. Of the Baptism of the two youngest sons the following entries are found in the register of St. Michael's Church:

Baptised, November 28th, Joseph Smith, son of James and Eliza.

Died, December 6th, Joseph Smith, son of James and Eliza.

#### And in 1772:

Baptised, May 25th, Joseph Smith, son of James and Eliza.

A search has been made both at Somerset House and at Birmingham for the wills of James Smith and of his wife Elizabeth, but without success.

## THOMAS SMITH.

See Pedigree, Table 5.

THOMAS, the eldest son of James Smith, went to America, where he married and lived at North Twelfth Street, Philadelphia. In religious belief he was a Swedenborgian, and was always described as a man of great independence of character.

His mother, Eliza [beth] Smith, was much attached to him, and when her strength began to fail, her great desire was to live to see "her Tommy" once more. Her wish was fulfilled, for he paid his last visit to England shortly before her death in 1810.

On his arrival in England he found that it was no longer the fashion for gentlemen to wear pig-tails, but instead of cutting his own off as others had done, he tucked it into his coat collar, and when he became animated in conversation it used to come out and wag about in a ludicrous manner. John Benjamin Smith remembered his Uncle Thomas as a tall handsome man of six feet high or more.

The only information obtainable, respecting the family of Thomas Smith, is from letters written by his nephew Thomas (third son of Benjamin Smith) to his brother, John Benjamin, in Manchester. These letters were written while Thomas, junior, was living in Charleston, South Carolina, and contain the following information:

Charleston,

26th April, 1820.

You will be sorry to hear of the death of my Cousin Eliza, eldest daughter of Uncle Thomas, of Philadelphia. He announced this event in a letter of April 9th, and appears to be deeply affected.

Again, in a letter dated Charleston, 1821, "Cousin Augusta" is mentioned. In other letters Thomas, junior, mentions that he is going to visit his Uncle, and the intercourse seems to have been frequent.

#### PLATE VI.

Benjamin Smith, from an Oil Painting by James Lonsdale, painted in 1821, in the possession of Henry Wilson Smith.



PLATE VI.

Benjamin Smith, from an Oil Painting by James Lonsdale Painted in 1821, in the possession of Henry Wilson Smith.

# BENJAMIN SMITH.

#### 1768-1831.

See Pedigree, Table 5, and Plates VI., VIII., VIII.

Benjamin, the second son of James Smith, was born 1768, and died February 7th, 1831. There is no entry of his birth at Coventry, either at St. Michael's Church, or at Holy Trinity. He married Eliza ......: there is a tradition that her name may have been Randall, but of this there is no confirmation. He had seven children. John Benjamin, Henry, Thomas, Joseph, Eliza, Jane, and Frederick. John Benjamin was born February 7th, 1794. Henry died young. Thomas was born November 10th, 1799, and the following verses give the births of the other children.

In the year one thousand eight hundred 'tis said, His lordship came forth with his carroty head (Joseph). In the year one thousand eight hundred and two, Was born the big sister of Johnnie Ben-ju (Eliza). In the year one thousand eight hundred and four, Johnnie Ben-ju had one sister more (Jane). In the year one thousand eight hundred and six, Dominie Sampson 'gan playing his tricks (Frederick).

All the available registers of baptism both at Coventry and at Warwick have been examined to discover the entries of the Baptisms of the children of Benjamin Smith. An advertisement offering a reward was also inserted in the "Coventry Standard," requesting parish clerks to examine the registers of the neighbouring parishes, but without result. The register of the Wem Independent Church has also been examined to see whether by any chance the children might have been baptised by their relative, the Rev. Peter Edwards, but here again nothing was found

None of the children had any distinct recollection of their mother. John Benjamin remembered her only as a beautiful woman with fine dark eyes. She had delicate health and died in 1807, the year following the birth of her youngest son Frederick.

The care of the children devolved mainly upon the grandmother, Eliza Smith, to whom they were all deeply attached, and John Benjamin, with almost tears in his eyes, used to relate how at night after bathing them, she would make them run naked up her knees, and when they reached her shoulders, would smother them with kisses. And he would add, "She was a good woman."

There still remain a Venetian looking-glass,

a round oak table, a carved oak settee, a oneday clock with only the hour finger, four silver salt cellars and a small Indian bowl, and two cups and saucers which formerly belonged to her.

Her death is mentioned in the "Coventry Mercury" of Monday, July 30th, 1810, as follows:

On Monday last, Mrs. Smith, relict of the late Mr. James Smith of this city.

Very few similar notices are found in the "Coventry Mercury" of that date, which tends to show that Eliza Smith was a person of some importance. She was certainly a "personality," who stamped her character and her physiognomy on future generations. Her long nose can be traced in several members of the family.

Benjamin Smith, in partnership with James Burrows, was a ribbon manufacturer in Coventry. The dissolution of their partnership is thus recorded in the "Coventry Mercury," July 30th, 1810:

Notice is hereby given that the partnership between us, the undersigned, Benjamin Smith, and James Burrows, of the City of Coventry, Ribbon manu-

facturers, was dissolved by mutual consent on the ninth day of July, inst.

As witness our hands the 28th day of July, 1810.

Benjamin Smith.

James Burrows.

Witness. Mark Pearman.

Mark Pearman is mentioned in several letters as a friend of the family, and he was living at Barford when John Benjamin took his bride to see him in 1841.

The family house, at Coventry, where Benjamin Smith lived, was situated at the end of Little Park Street, and the Old City wall surrounded the garden. It was a house of some importance, facing an open common, called "The Park," where the children of the town played. In the business accounts of Joseph Smith & Bros., in 1826, the value of the property is placed at £900. In 1838 the property was sold for about £800, and the house was converted into the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital. The owner from whom it was purchased was Mrs. Bird, an old lady of 83. See Poole's "History of Coventry," and also the "Coventry Herald" of September 21st, 1838. In 1869 the property was acquired for The Girl's Reformatory, and in 1905 it was sold for £1,000 to the

### PLATE VII.

Unfinished Water Colour Sketch of Benjamin Smith, probably by Thomas Smith, circa 1826.



PLATE VII.

Unfinished Water Colour Sketch of Benjamin Smith, probably by Thomas Smith, circa 1826.

Coventry Corporation. Most of the garden was at that time taken for street improvements and the remainder, including the house, was sold in the following year, 1906, for £695 to a builder, who pulled down the house and erected in its place a motor factory. No title deeds are now in existence prior to 1869.

Between 1813 and 1817, Benjamin Smith removed with his family from Coventry, and went to live at 10 The Crescent, Salford. He came to Manchester at the invitation of his brother, Joseph, with whom he entered into partnership under the title of Joseph Smith and Brother. This title seems to have been changed in 1821, to Joseph Smith and Brothers.

Benjamin Smith held advanced opinions both in religion and in politics. When the Athanasian creed was said, he always sat down and closed his prayer book with a bang. He was an intimate friend of John Taylor, a Quaker who kept a school, near Manchester, and who held advanced Liberal views in politics, and it was through the assistance of Benjamin Smith that the "Manchester Guardian" newspaper was founded by John Edward Taylor, the son of John Taylor.

Benjamin Smith was appointed an Overseer of the Poor of Salford in 1819, at a time when distress was so great that the Bank had to advance largely to the Overseers. At last the Bank refused to advance any more money, and it was found necessary to levy the enormous rate of 10s. in the pound. This was collected with very great difficulty, and only under threats of legal process.

When Benjamin Smith went to live at Salford, a hackney coach or an omnibus was unknown there; his sister-in-law, Mrs. Joseph Smith, of Strangeways, and her mother, Mrs. Whittenbury, were the only ladies in Manchester who kept a carriage. On Sunday, everybody walked to Church, irrespective of weather. If wet, the ladies were equipped in long camlet cloaks and ring pattens. But luxury was beginning to creep in, and Benjamin Smith helped to establish the first hackney coach. Not far from where he resided, there lived a shoemaker named Swiney, who had a wooden leg, and who was familiarly known as "Swinepeg." This man came one day to Benjamin Smith and told him of his desire to set up a hackney coach, if he could have the support of one or two gentlemen. Benjamin Smith and some others consented; a coach was purchased and became such a success that a second and a third soon followed. Not long afterwards, an

opposition hackney coach was started by John Greenwood, and sufficient customers were found for all. Greenwood's omnibuses were next introduced. These were considered a marvellous innovation which no one expected could possibly prosper. Crowds assembled to see the first omnibus start from Pendleton to Manchester, and little by little, Greenwood's omnibuses were known in every part of the town.

Benjamin Smith dissolved partnership with his brother Joseph on December 31st, 1826, and the following information is taken from the Diary of Thomas James:

16 February, 1827. Mr. [Joseph] Smith and Mr. B. Smith dissolved partnership in the Christmas. The firms now are Jos. Smith and Son (Junius) and Benjamin Smith and Sons.

After the dissolution of partnership on December 31st, 1826, Benjamin Smith took no personal part in the management of the Manchester business. On January 2nd, 1827, he married for a second time.

Mr. Thomas James writes in his Diary, 16th February, 1827:

Saw a letter to-day that Mr. B. Smith was married to a Mrs. [Elizabeth]

Simpkin [née Dorrington, of Manchester], a widow, on 2nd January last, privately. The wedding took place the first day Benjamin and Co. began business.

Benjamin Smith's second marriage was the cause of great unhappiness to his children, for they had been a very united family, and devoted to their father. Shortly afterwards he left Manchester and retired to Gomersall in Yorkshire, where he bought a woollen mill, and here he lived until the time of his death on February 7th, 1831.

On Wednesday, February 9th, 1831, Mr. Thomas James again writes in his Diary:

This evening I received a letter from Mr. J. [Benjamin] Smith, dated, Gomersall, the 7th, that his father was seized there with a paralytic stroke on Thursday morning last (the 3rd) after breakfast, while washing his feet, though apparently in good health, and died on Monday, the 7th, in the afternoon about 3 o'clock.

#### Funeral.

We received a card which is as follows:—To Mr. and Mrs. James, in memory of the late Mr Benjamin Smith, who this day was interred at St. Stephen's

#### PLATE VIII.

Pencil Sketch of Benjamin Smith, in the possession of Henry Wilson Smith.



PENCIL SKETCH OF BENJAMIN SMITH, IN THE POSSESSION OF HENRY WILSON SMITH.

Church, Salford, Manchester, February 14th, 1831.

February 19th. To-day received from Manchester a crape hatband and gloves, and for Mrs. James, gloves.

The bill for this funeral still exists, the sum of one hundred and thirty pounds five shillings being paid to William Dorrington, of Manchester. Among other items there are 36 crape bands, 33 sarsnet bands, 41 pairs of gloves for the funeral, and 40 pairs for ladies, and 6 pairs for gentlemen, being "In Memoriam" gloves sent to those who were unable to be present.

Benjamin Smith was buried at St. Stephen's Church, Salford, and the Burial Register is as follows—page 108, year 1831:

Benjamin Smith, of Islington, Salford, buried February 14th, aged 63 years. Ceremony performed by Hugh Stowell.

No tombstone inscribed to Benjamin Smith has been found, but a large number of stones in the churchyard are entirely covered with earth. There is a flat tombstone, of which the upper part is blank and on the lower part is inscribed the name of Elizabeth Smith, relict of Benjamin Smith, of Gomersall,

Yorkshire, who died September 10th, 1848, aged 63 years.

Benjamin Smith's Will.

I, Benjamin Smith, of Ordsall Cottage, Salford, being of sound mind, memory, and understanding, do hereby make this my last will and Testament in manner and form following, after my just debts and funeral expenses are paid I give and bequeath all my property of every description to my dear children to be equally divided among them, share and share alike (save and except in such cases as are hereafter mentioned). I here enumerate them-John, Thomas, Joseph, Frederick, Eliza, and Jane. I earnestly recommend them to the care and protection of Almighty God, and most sincerely pray that they will cherish that mutual affection and disinterested love for each other which has so largely contributed to their happiness and which has so eminently distinguished them family—so will God's blessing rest upon them, and as they love and respect their Father's memory I request them to treat with favourable regard and respect my dear wife who is worthy of every respect they can possibly pay her. I have ever found her a tender, attentive and affectionate wife, in a word, as worthy a woman as ever existed.\* If the yearly premium which is paid to the Equitable Company be paid by any of my children, this, with lawful interest on the same, must be first fully discharged and satisfied before any division of the property can be made. As this will is all written with my own hand, I believe no subscribing witness will be necessary to give it validity, but if I should not be correct in this, I am certain that none of my children will take any advantage of this, or any other technical informality I may have been guilty of. I trust my meaning is sufficiently plain to an ordinary understanding, and that will be quite sufficient for them to comply with any injunction herein contained. And I hereby nominate and appoint my two sons, John and Thomas, to be executors to this my last will and Testament, and if they should not be living at the time of my decease then my other sons, Joseph or Frederick, according to seniority. In confirmation of this I herewith affix my hand and

<sup>\*</sup> Notwithstanding, her character has been cruelly maligned (written in pencil).

seal this twentieth day of February, 1827.

(Signed) Benjamin Smith.

Codicil to Will.

It is my will and desire that my beloved wife, Elizabeth, after my decease, shall have an annual income of £150 secured to her in such manner as shall be satisfactory to her brother, Wm. Dorrington, to be paid Quarterly, on her giving up a bond for £2,000, which lies in Mr. Dorrington's hands. The above annuity to be paid to her during her natural life, and then to cease and be extinct and revert to my children and be shared equally among them.

Witness my hand, this eighth day of April, 1830.

(Signed) Benjamin Smith.

His will was proved for £9,000 "within the province," which implies that he left property elsewhere.

Benjamin Smith was never an energetic business man. He was of a studious disposition, and loved country pursuits, being frequently found in his garden pruning his fruit trees at night by the light of a lantern.

#### PLATE IX.

John Benjamin Smith, from a Photograph by Netterville Briggs.

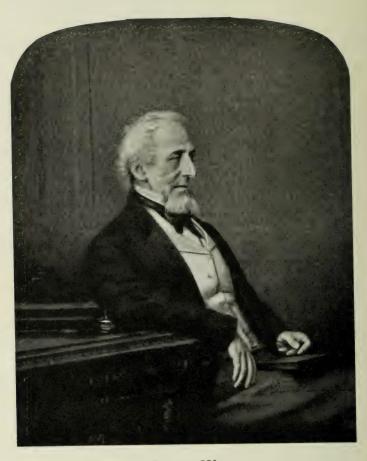


PLATE IX.

JOHN BENJAMIN SMITH, FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY

NETTERVILLE BRIGGS.

## JOHN BENJAMIN SMITH.

#### 1794-1879.

See Pedigree, Table 5, and Plate IX.

JOHN BENJAMIN, the eldest son of Benjamin Smith, was born in or near Coventry, February 7th, 1794. He was educated at King Edward the VI. School, Warwick, and he used to relate how once, during his residence there, he and the other boys were taken by the schoolmaster (the Rev. George Innes, who died in 1842) to see six men hanged for sheep stealing. The horror of this sight remained with him to the end of his days. He also used to relate that one very wet summer, while he was at school, the flour was so bad that the bread made from it was soft like putty, and that he and his schoolfellows used to make little balls of the bread and throw it up to the school ceiling, where it remained sticking.

To what school John Benjamin went previously to Warwick is not known, but he used to describe with great minuteness his schoolmaster, Dr. Haycock (or some such name) in

his flowing wig, "cocked and pinched hat," long tail coat with gold buttons, knee breeches, white stockings, buckles, ruffles, and cane; altogether a most imposing personage. Mrs. Haycock was a great friend of "Grandmamma."

John Benjamin also used to relate how he and his father went to see the celebrated Dr. Parr, who had a school at Hatton, not far from Coventry.

In 1808, at the age of fourteen, John Benjamin left school and entered his Uncle Joseph Smith's warehouse in Manchester. Although the business hours were long, he found time for self-culture. He studied German and French, but especially history, and also attended the scientific lectures given by the celebrated Dr. Dalton.

There was a very prevalent belief in ghosts in those days, and during one of his many dark walks across the fields to attend lectures John Benjamin had a practical experience of one.

He was passing down a very narrow lane, bordered by a hedge on each side, and when approaching a small inn, where hung a tiny lamp, he saw emerging from under an archway a monstrous creature clad in white, with fire streaming from its eyes. This terrible

apparition, after a moment's pause, marched straight down the lane towards him. Dreadfully frightened, but totally unable to escape, he rushed straight upon the imaginary ghost and kicked it violently with his wooden clogs. Unable to see anything in the darkness, the ghost, which consisted of a man clothed in a white sheet, holding up on the top of a stick a scooped-out turnip, inside which had been placed a piece of candle, felt only the crushing blows of the wooden clogs upon his shins. Shrieking loudly, he threw down illuminated turnip and his stick, and fled for his life. No ghost was seen again in that neighbourhood, and John Benjamin lost for ever all fear of ghosts.

John Benjamin was made to work early and late. He was required to see the warehouse opened at eight o'clock in the morning, and also to see it closed at night, sometimes as late as ten o'clock. Very little business was done after the dinner-hour of two until the coach arrived at six o'clock with the post. Then letters had to be read and answers written ready for the early coach next morning.

The account of the following incident, which happened in 1812, was written by John Benjamin himself, in a volume of manuscript

Reminiscences written shortly before his death, and now in the possession of Mr. Henry Wilson Smith.

It was my duty to see the Warehouse closed every evening and to take home the keys with me. It happened one evening, about six o'clock, that the Warehouse was locked up for me by the porter, a man of about six feet three inches high, who went by the name of Long Tom; this man having handed me the keys, I proceeded to my lodgings at Miss Gunsons, Gartside Street, near St. John's Church. As I was walking along Deansgate there appeared to be a great commotion in the street. Seeing a woman in a very excited state I asked her, "What's to do." "Why," she exclaimed, "they winna tak eighteen shillings a load for taters, and if they winna tak eighteen shillings a load for 'em we'en aye 'em for nowt." I looked to the other side of the street and beheld a great crowd in front of a provision shop, and whose head should I see towering above all others but that of Long Tom. Just then two men passed through the crowd, carrying a bedstead and bedding on a hand barrow. The mob seized the pillars of the bedstead and used them as a battering ram against the shop door which they broke open. A cry arose, "Soldiers a coming," and I saw the swords of the soldiers gleaming in the distance as they were coming down from Knott Mill. The people ran in all directions, and I took to my heels, scrambling through the crowd as well as I could, down John Street and through the Churchyard, reaching home in safety. The next morning I heard that the police had made numerous arrests. Among them, I was shocked to hear, was Long Tom, whose head was conspicuous above all the others at the shop door. They were all taken to the New Bailey and brought before the Magistrates the next day, and I was grieved to hear that Long Tom, with a host of other prisoners, was committed for trial to Lancaster Castle, where poor Tom was tried, found guilty, condemned, and shortly afterwards hanged!! Poor Tom's sad fate preved on my mind for a long time, and I could never forget it. I felt he was harshly dealt with. His crime was not the premeditated act of a bad man, but the sudden impulse of a generous sympathy for his starving neighbours.

John Benjamin soon began to show great business ability, combined with that exactness of thought and soundness of judgment which characterised him through life. At the age of nineteen his uncle expected him to do the whole of the business correspondence as well as to go to Liverpool, weekly, on market day. In order to arrive there in time for the open ing of the Exchange it was necessary to leave Manchester by the coach at four o'clock in the morning, and usually to ride on the top, rain, hail, or shine, and to return the same evening.

It must be remembered that in those days the only way to procure a light was by means of striking a flint and steel and allowing the spark to drop on to dry tinder, but this was a long process, and in winter John Benjamin, like most other people, had to get up and dress in the dark. He has often described the misery of it, and how difficult it was to know which was the boot for the right leg and which for the left. As was the universal custom he was awakened by the watchman who went round during the night and called out the hour, such as "Two o'clock and a cloudy night," or "Four o'clock and the moon shines bright." These men were often old and feeble, and could not be trusted to perform their duties without supervision. The

ratepayers were, therefore, obliged to take it in turn to look after them, and one publichouse in each district was ordered to be kept open for the accommodation of those who were on patrol.

John Benjamin was also frequently sent to buy cotton in London, and on one of these occasions, when early in the morning, the coach arrived at Highgate, the fog was so thick that the coach ran into the ditch, and the coachman was afraid to proceed farther.

It was necessary for some of the passengers to reach London in time for the opening of the Exchange, so one man who knew the road well volunteered to guide them safely if each would take hold of the other man's coat tail. In this manner they walked to London and arrived safely in time for the commencement of business.

Cotton was sold in those days by auction at the offices of the East India Company, and John Benjamin used to relate his first experience of buying. The lots were sold so rapidly that he hardly knew when they were knocked down to him, and at the end of the sale he found that he had bought a great deal more cotton than he had intended to do He returned to Manchester in fear and trembling, lest his uncle should be very wrathful. To his

surprise, however, his uncle praised him greatly, and the cotton proved to be such a good purchase that the firm made a profit of £30,000. After this success "John" was sent regularly to London to buy cotton.

All this hard work taxed a constitution never robust, and was the cause of a most serious illness, from which it was hardly expected he could recover, and which left a dimness in one eye throughout life. He went, however, to his uncle Joseph, at Strangeways Hall, and was there most carefully nursed. His small cousin, Henry (the Rev. John Henry Smith), came to his bedside one night and whispered, "Cousin John, the doctor says if that blister does not rise you will die." The blister did rise and he lived to a good old age.

In 1817 John Benjamin, with his brother Thomas, visited Ireland, and a few extracts from his Diary written at the time are of interest:

May 21st, 1817. Set off 6 o'clock in the morning, with brother Tom, outside the coach for Liverpool. Season very backward, trees only just putting forth their leaves. Arrived at Liverpool, went to inquire for Dublin packet, but found to our regret that there was none arrived, but, says the Irishman, "Gentlemen, you may be assured it will be here to-night." Went in the evening to see Mrs. Glover perform Lady Teazle. in Sheridan's School for Scandal. . . The whole went off well. The play, in my opinion, is very objectionable, and conveys a dangerous moral. The house was thinly attended, a proof of the scarcity of superfluous cash.

Thursday. Find packet alongside of pier, engage berths, expect to sail 3 o'clock this afternoon. Unfortunately, the wind was N.W.W., and we made little progress during the night. Our company, consisting of fourteen or fifteen, were very agreeable, and a loquacious Irish priest, Duffy, afforded us much amusement. The passengers in the hold, principally Irish, were of the most wretched description, and so numerous that they lay huddled one upon the other, surrounded by fowls, dogs, lumber, etc.

Their situation did not appear at all to incommode them, their habits in their country agreeing pretty nearly with it. They have no idea of comfort.

Saturday. The wind, still contrary, but spent the evening merrily, being in

sight of Irish land, amused ourselves with singing until I o'clock.

Sunday morning. Landed early at the Pidgeon House [the journey from Liverpool to Dublin had taken from 3 p.m. on Thursday to Sunday morning]. Took places in the Cavan Mail and set off at 7.30 p.m. I had taken an outside place, and unfortunately it rained. The inside being full, I wrapped myself in two top coats, and off we drove, accompanied by two guards, six pistols and two blunderbusses, and a soldier, well mounted and armed, rode before us. A formidable preparation truly. Happily they proved unnecessary, and after a very cold ride we arrived at Cavan to breakfast. Cavan is the county town, and a tolerable place for Ireland; the houses are principally built of mud, and some few are whitewashed. The inn is a very comfortable place and provided us with a good breakfast. Here we ordered a chaise to take us to Coote Hill. The rate of posting is 16d. per mile; we had a very good chaise, and the roads in general are very fair. . . When we arrived near Coote Hill we were surprised by the sight of a few trees, and a pretty house appeared in

the distance, and we felt as if enchanted in a moment into a new world. Coote Hill is a shabby place. We inquired our way to our friend Thompson's. He lived four miles further on. The road is very bad, but the country a little improved. At Tatybreke we received a hearty welcome from our good friends. Being Whit Monday, saw the swains playing pitch-and-toss, etc.; the girls dressed in their best, looked very tidy.

Tuesday. Went to Fairfield, the residence of Mr. Corry, also rode through the domain of Lord Cremorn and Mr. Coote. The houses of both these latter gentlemen were shut up to prevent the entry of the Sheriff. So improvident are the Irish nobility that no sooner is one execution settled than another succeeds, till at length the property gets into other hands. Mr. Corry lately sold an estate for £90,000. Mr. Robert Thompson and family met us at dinner. Soon after dinner it is the custom here for the ladies to withdraw and leave the gentlemen to drink whisky, they are never told tea is ready; this is thought to be a breach of hospitality, and if they feel inclined they sit drinking until the fiery liquor deprives

them of their senses. After tea, cards were introduced, but there does not seem to be a spirit of gaming.

Thursday. Went to visit several little cabins, miserable huts built of mud and covered with turf and straw, something like a thatch; pigsties are the only habitations which resemble them in England. A hole in the top serves for the smoke vent, and a hole in the ground for a fireplace. Lime is very scarce, so the walls are never whitewashed, and are as black as a chimney back. Windows are a curiosity except in decent houses. Yet in the midst of such apparent wretchedness the people seem happy. They love their children with tenderness, and their children in return honour their parents. Their natural vivacity supports them under their troubles, which would drive an Englishman to despair; accustomed to hard living, a good meal of potatoes or oatmeal is a luxury to them.

In 1826 John Benjamin began to consider the desirability of severing his business connection with his uncle, from whom he often differed in opinion on business questions

On December 31st, 1826, the partnership of Joseph Smith & Bros. was dissolved, and two new firms were established, viz., Joseph Smith & Son (Junius) and Benjamin Smith & Sons. The following letters show on what friendly terms the separation was arranged.

Manchester, September 8th, 1826.

Messrs. Joseph Smith & Bros. Dear Sirs,

Being desirous of withdrawing from your service at Christmas next, I beg leave to request that you will make arrangements to release me from my engagements to you at that time.

I remain, dear Sirs,

Very truly yours,

John Smith.

Dear Uncle,

I annex a copy of a note addressed to Messrs. Joseph Smith & Bros., declaring my intention of withdrawing from all connection with that firm at Christmas next. Having fully stated to my father the reasons which induced this resolution, I deem it but proper to offer the same explanation to you, and have preferred doing so in writing, as allowing the

exercise of more deliberation than a verbal communication.

I need hardly say that it is not without feelings of pain that I have decided on retiring from a connection which has existed so many years, which has tended more closely to unite our families, and which may have been beneficial to both, and perhaps nothing would have influenced this step but the conviction of its being absolutely necessary to my own comfort and happiness. You are not ignorant that for many years past, on many matters relating to business, we have very frequently differed in opinion, that this difference in opinion has often led to remarks to which not all the respect which I ought to feel towards my father's brother, has prevented my replying with a warmth which has again provoked the use of language offensive and violent, and (since in passion reason is forgotten) sometimes unjust. It cannot have escaped you that each succeeding year our disputes have been more frequent and decided, and have appeared to excite more and more unpleasant feelings in each.

I am quite aware of the irritability of my own temper, and wish not to impute a larger share of blame to you than to myself, but from whatever causes our differences may have arisen or whatever may have been the manner in which they have terminated, the consequences have been to me the same – my temper has been soured, my mind disturbed, my comfort destroyed, my health impaired. I have frequently been on the point of making a similar communication to the present, from which I have only been deterred by the earnest expression of my father's wish to the contrary.

I am sure you will do me the justice to believe that I shall ever rejoice in your welfare and that of your family and it will afford me the highest pleasure to be able to render you any service, at the same time I trust our separation will cause no interruption to the friendship and regard which I flatter myself I have always enjoyed in your family, and which it will ever be my anxious wish to deserve, but I think you will agree with me that it is best our connection in business should terminate.

I remain, dear Uncle,
Your affectionate nephew,
John Smith.

Manchester, September 11th, 1826.

Dear John,

I have received your letter, and whatever is agreeable to my brother will meet with no obstacle from me

Without any references to the cause or causes which have produced your desire, if, after deliberate consideration, you are finally resolved, I can only say that I most sincerely wish you may be more prosperous and happy in any new connections or plans you may form.

We shall separate, I trust, with the most perfect good will to each other, and I shall always be ready and happy to forward your interests by every way in my power.

I am not insensible to the many virtues which distinguish you, and I most cheerfully bear my testimony to the fidelity and affection which have always distinguished you, although our tempers may not harmonise, yet I believe my friendship and affection will continue for you as long as I live, and my heart, my house, and my purse, as far as I have ability, be open to you.

Indeed, there is nothing I should so much deprecate as that your withdrawment should create any disunion between our families. Neither my brother nor I can expect to be long here, or if spared we ought not to be much longer in active life, and it has been among the fondest wishes of my mind that his children and mine might identify their interests together, and this desire remains among the strongest feelings of my heart.

I am, dear John,
Your affectionate uncle,
JOSEPH SMITH.

John Benjamin, early in life, began to take an interest in politics. The following extract is taken from his manuscript Reminiscences:

There was one circumstance which, I think, had an important influence upon me all through life in the decided and unflinching pertinacity which I always pursued in questions of Free Trade. In my father's library there was a copy of Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations," in three volumes, printed in 1776, and which I still look upon with veneration. I used when a boy to pore over this book with more pleasure than any other. I was

captivated with its simplicity, sound sense and convincing arguments.

On August 16th, 1819, he was an eyewitness of what was afterwards known as the "Massacre of Peterloo." Of this event he left two accounts, one written at the time and one written after he was eighty.

Henry Hunt, afterwards M.P. for Preston, who had been speaking in various places against the recently imposed Corn Laws, came to Manchester, and marched, followed by a large crowd carrying flags and banners, to a vacant piece of land called St. Peter's Field, near to St. Peter's Street. The meeting had been called for the purpose of petitioning for the Reform of Parliament and for the Repeal of the Corn Laws, and was computed to number some 60,000 people, among whom were many women and children.

John Benjamin, with his aunt and his father, were in a house opposite to the place of meeting, and from there they saw the whole proceedings. While Hunt was standing on a waggon addressing the assembled people, the Manchester Yeomanry, headed by Hugh Birley, galloped up, followed by the 15th Hussars and the Cheshire Yeomanry and two pieces of Artillery. These charged the crowd, killing some and wounding many.

John Benjamin was at the window of the house next door to that in which the magistrates were standing. The magistrates maintained that they read the Riot Act, and that the people did not obey. The people declared that the Riot Act was not read, and that if they had heard it read, they would have obeyed. John Benjamin said that though he was in the house next to the magistrates, he did not hear the Riot Act read, and if it were read it was read in such a manner that no one could hear it.

John Benjamin, like Hunt, was wearing a white top hat, which at that time was the badge of a Radical, and when he went out among the people, after the disturbance, they cheered him heartily. He was never tired of relating this event. The Free Trade Hall now stands on the site of "Peterloo."

John Benjamin took an active part in exposing the manner in which the people were treated at this meeting, and wrote an account of it in Cowdray's "Manchester Gazette." This account created great alarm both in London and in Manchester, and a committee was formed to inquire into the cases of those who had been killed or wounded. The committee published the cases of eleven killed and five hundred and sixty

wounded, of whom about one hundred and twenty were women. In February, 1821, the Freedom of the town of Nottingham was conferred upon John Benjamin Smith in recognition of the part which he had taken in exposing the events of "Peterloo." From this time forth he became an ardent politician, working strenuously for the Reform of Parliament and the Repeal of the Corn Laws.

The story of the life of John Benjamin Smith is far too long to be fully told here, but a few incidents which are of interest must be recorded. For fourteen years he brought a motion in favour of the Repeal of the Corn Laws before the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, without finding even a seconder, for which action he became known as "Corn Law Smith."

In 1832 he took a very prominent part in the important and exciting election of Mr. Mark Philips as the first Member of Parliament for Manchester, and to John Benjamin Smith's newspaper articles and placards signed "Mercator," was largely attributed the success of Mr. Philips.

As an Overseer of the Poor he was always popular. Pretence of any kind he quickly detected, and he exposed a large number of impostors who had been in receipt of relief for

many years. In 1835 he was appointed a magistrate for the County of Lancaster, and as a magistrate his judgments were always trusted. One day there had been a "turn out" at one of the mills, and a dispute had arisen which he, as magistrate, had to decide. As he went to the Court House he found a large crowd waiting for him, and heard the people say to each other, "Here's Muster Smith, we know he'll do reete." In after life, when he used to relate the incident, he said nothing ever pleased him more than the words of those people, "We know he'll do reete."

In the same year (1835) John Benjamin paid his first visit to the Continent of Europe, in company with Mr. William Longsdon. They were absent nearly two months, and John Benjamin left an interesting Diary describing what they saw. They started from London and sailed to Ostend, thence by diligence to Brussels, and visited many of the interesting old Belgian towns, among them Spa, where the gaming tables were a great shock to his English ideas. Then the Rhine and the towns near to it were visited, Wiesbaden, Baden, Strasburg, and thence a three days' journey by diligence to Paris. "A very slow mode of travelling," says John Benjamin, "after one has travelled in the Manchester and Liverpool Railway!"

He comments on the orderly manner in which all classes on the Continent join together in outdoor amusements, and especially on the sobriety of the people, and expresses the hope that the day may come when the English people will be equally sober! The passport system irritated him greatly. "No despotism," he says, "can be more complete than the Prussian; by means of their police they know where every person in the country sleeps every night. We could have travelled from Manchester to London whilst we have been detained here getting permission to move."

At the end of 1836 John Benjamin retired from business, and the firm was carried on under the old name of Benjamin Smith & Sons by his two brothers, Thomas and Joseph.

In 1837, on the death of King William and the accession of the young Queen Victoria, a General Election became necessary. John Benjamin was persuaded at the eleventh hour to stand as Parliamentary candidate for Blackburn. The drunkenness and bribery seem to have been terrible. He writes to Mr. William Longsdon, July 31st, 1837: "I have been to Blackburn as a Candidate, but finding I could only get in by bribery I retired

after having been elected by a show of hands."

In 1837 John Benjamin was elected a Member of the Board of Directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. He at once gave notice of a motion to submit to the Board the draft of a petition to be presented to Parliament for the Repeal of the Corn Laws.

On the day when the motion was brought forward a long and heated discussion took place at which Richard Cobden spoke for the first time as a Corn Law Repealer. The motion was finally carried, and the petition was presented to Parliament on January 20th, 1838. This was the first petition presented to Parliament in favour of the Repeal of the Corn Laws, and was the real commencement of that agitation, which during the next eight years was to excite England as perhaps no agitation had ever excited her before. In October of the same year seven men in Manchester, with John Benjamin Smith at their head, banded themselves together with the purpose of agitating for the repeal of the iniquitous Corn Laws. They founded the Anti-Corn Law Association, which afterwards became the Anti-Corn Law League, of which John Benjamin was the first Chairman and

the acknowledged leader. He wrote articles in the newspapers, he took the chair at the large meetings, and it was he who collected the facts and arguments which Cobden and other speakers used in their speeches.

In February, 1839, amidst great excitement, the Chairman of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, Mr. George William Wood, was forced to resign on account of his lukewarmness towards the Anti-Corn Law movement, and John Benjamin was elected in his place. He remained Chairman until 1842, when he resigned in consequence of his absence from England. A newspaper writer, giving a biographical sketch of John Benjamin in 1846, says: "Eighteen years previously [that is in 1828], he [John Benjamin Smith] brought forward his motion for the Repeal of the Corn Laws before that Chamber of Commerce of which he had now been elected President."

In January, 1841, John Benjamin contested Walsall in his capacity of Chairman of the Anti-Corn Law League. He was opposed by Mr. John N. Gladstone, brother of Mr. W. E. Gladstone. The struggle was extremely fierce, Mr. W. E. Gladstone came to help his brother, and Richard Cobden came to help John Benjamin Smith, who was

### PLATE X.

Jemina Smith, wife of John Benjamin Smith, from a Photograph by Mr. Rupert Potter.



JEMINA SMITH, WIFE OF JOHN BENJAMIN SMITH, FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MR. RUPERT POTTER.

defeated by the small majority of 27. The ladies of Walsall afterwards presented him with a beautiful large silver salver. John Benjamin was never tired of relating the details of this struggle.

On August 12th, 1841, John Benjamin was married at the Unitarian Chapel, Renshaw Street, Liverpool, by the Rev. Hamilton Thom, to Jemina Durning, younger daughter of William Durning, of Liverpool. John Benjamin had now become an Unitarian in religion. Miss Durning's family had been Unitarians for several generations. This was the first marriage celebrated at Renshaw Street Chapel after the passing of the Removal of the Dissenters' Disabilities Act

Miss Durning had been living with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. George Holt, since the death of her father, William Durning, in 1830, and from their house in Rake Lane, Edgehill, Liverpool, the newly married couple started on August 12th at noon in their own travelling coach to commence their two years' sojourn abroad. They took their coach with them to the Continent as was then the custom. At that time the railway to London was only completed so far as Birmingham. John Benjamin's small diary tells us that the first

day they lunched at Warrington, and slept at The Queen, Birmingham. The Diary continues:

August 14th, Leamington. Drank tea at Tom's.

August 15th. Drank tea at Uncle's.

August 16th. Drove with Tom to Stoneleigh Park, dined at Tom's.

August 18th. Dined at Uncle's.

August 19th. Drank tea at Tom's.

August 20th. Left Leamington 11 o'clock for Coventry. Coventry, St. Mary's Hall, Spires, Churches. Left Coventry by railway and arrived Patterson's Hotel, London, 7 p.m.

August 21st. Mr. and Miss Hard-castle called on Jemina.

August 22nd. Drive in Hyde Park, Regent's Park, and walk in Kensington Gardens.

August 26th. Called with Brotherton on Sir Geo. Grey. Cobden and Dr. Bowring dined with us. R. Scott and Tom took wine with us.

August 27th. Morning went to the Oaks [home of Joseph Smith, junr.], dined at Hatcham. Mrs. Haldane, Augusta, Craig, Joe, Arnold and wife, Tom.

August 28th. Alfred, Eliza, Selina, and little Eliza and Tom dined with us.

August 29th. Villiers, McGregor, and Cobden and wife dined with us. Evening Hyde Park.

August 30th. Eliza called to say her daughter would accompany us to Geneva. Tom and Willy dined with us.

August 31st. Tom and Willy dined with us.

September 1st Mrs. John Benjamin Smith writes in Diary:

Dined at Hatcham, and gathered peaches, husband not knowing the difference between peaches and nuts.

On September 2nd they left London for Havre, and thence sailed up the Seine as far as Rouen, posted to Paris, and arrived at the Hotel Windsor 9 p.m. "Left Hotel Windsor for Hotel de Londres parceque l'avait trop de population." Four days posting took them to Geneva. There they called on Dr. Mallon, in the care of whose family they left their niece Eliza. All the principal towns of Italy were visited, and the winter was passed at a pension in the Brancadori Palace, Rome. Here John Benjamin bought the whole gallery of pictures, about eighty in number. One of

these, "Dogs and Dead Game," by Jan Fyt, is now in the National Gallery, London. A few were retained by himself, and the remainder, about seventy in number were presented to the Vernon Park Museum, at Stockport.

When John Benjamin Smith and his wife returned to England, in 1843, they took up their abode at his old house, Belmont, Pendleton, Manchester, where their two daughters were born. In 1845 they removed to Vicar's Field, Eccles. John Benjamin Smith again entered strenuously into political life, and in 1847 was elected M.P. for the Stirling Burghs. The feeling against an Unitarian was, however, great, and he retired from Stirling at the General Election in 1852, and after a strenuous contest he was elected M.P. for Stockport in succession to Richard Cobden He sat continuously for Stockport until he finally retired from public life in 1874 at the age of eighty. Up to that time he attended the House of Commons regularly, remaining there sometimes until four o'clock in the morning. Although always an advanced thinker he did not follow the extremest views of later days, but was among the first Liberals who revolted against Gladstone.

In 1848 he removed from Eccles to London, and leased a house at 105 Westbourne Terrace, next door to Richard Cobden. Here he continued to live for the remainder of his life—thirty-one years.

Although the house had a good supply of water, it was not considered sufficiently pure for drinking purposes, and it was the custom to send a manservant each morning down to a spring at the Bayswater Road end of Kensington Gardens to fill a can. The writer remembers the joy of being allowed to accompany him on a fine morning.

The neighbourhood of Westbourne Terrace was at that time almost country. Between Westbourne Terrace and Porchester Terrace were fields, which were in great part covered by small cottages inhabited by washerwomen, and at the top of Craven Hill there was a house in a garden with a large pond and a beautiful shady avenue of elm trees.

During the Civil War in America, 1860-65, John Benjamin strongly advocated the side of the North in opposition to the views of all the other members of his family whose sympathies remained with their Southern friends.

India was another of the important subjects upon which he worked hard and continuously. In 1855 he took a lease of an estate at Ascot, known as King's Ride. On this stood a small house which was surrounded by heather and almost buried in fir trees, and hidden away from other habitations. It was very enjoyable in its wildness, and all the family were devoted to the place. This estate John Benjamin Smith purchased in 1860 from Prince Albert.

At that time Ascot was a very primitive place. The railway was not completed, there was no church, no post office, and only a few houses and shops, while all provisions had to be procured from Windsor. Even the entrance to the grand stand was a wooden structure with a roof thatched with heather.

In 1874 John Benjamin Smith's younger daughter, Edith, married Edwin Lawrence, afterwards Sir Edwin Durning-Lawrence. The following year, 1875, Mrs. John Benjamin Smith caught a chill and died at Westbourne Terrace, on April 21st, from pneumonia. She was a woman of much vivacity, and gifted with great intellectual capacity and conversational powers. A personality universally loved and admired, and, as Mr. John Bright expressed it, "A woman who was one in a thousand." Her father, William Durning, of Edgehill, Liverpool, who died in 1830, was a fine

specimen of the old Yeomanry class, on which the greatness of England so much depended. His elder daughter Emma married in 1820 George Holt, of Liverpool, and died in 1871, leaving one daughter and five sons, all of whom afterwards occupied distinguished positions in Liverpool. The youngest, Robert Durning Holt, was the first Lord Mayor of Liverpool, and was offered a Baronetcy, which he declined to accept.

William Durning was the owner of a considerable extent of land in the Edgehill district of Liverpool, which eventually became of very great value. It is now almost entirely covered with houses.

Mrs. John Benjamin Smith's share of this large property very much contributed to her husband's success in life.

John Benjamin Smith died September 15th, 1879, after only a day's illness, at King's Ride, Ascot, having retained his faculties to the last. He was interred in the same grave as his wife at Kensal Green Cemetery. His elder daughter, Jemina, was always delicate, having been partially paralysed as a child, but she was a fine brave woman and fought manfully against her infirmities. She possessed much of the intellectual abilities of her father and of her mother. She took a keen interest

in all work for the educational and social improvement of her fellow creatures. Among her benefactions may be mentioned the erection and endowment of the Durning Free Library at Ascot, the providing a site and building for the Durning Library, Kennington, and the erection of the Durning Hall, Elsa Street, Limehouse. She also gave considerable endowments to the London Homœopathic Hospital, where one of the wards was named after her. She died at King's Ride, Ascot, on May 21st, 1901, and was buried in her father's grave at Kensal Green.

The testimony of the Rev. John Henry Smith, respecting his "Cousin John," is delightful to read:

What I can best remember of John is his affectionate kindness to myself, who proved a very indifferent sort of clerk, but to whose late hours and literary tastes he was most sweetly indulgent, never having given me a stern look or an angry word during the four years and a half that my clerkly delinquencies tried him.

#### PLATE XI.

Pencil Drawing of Thomas Smith, in the possession of Henry Wilson Smith.



PLATE AI.

Pencil Drawing of Thomas Smith,
IN THE POSSESSION OF HENRY WILSON
Smith.

# THOMAS SMITH.

### 1799—1864.

See Pedigree, Tables 5-6, and Plates XI.-XII.

Thomas, third son of Benjamin Smith, was born November 10th, 1799, at or near Coventry. While young he entered the office of Joseph Smith & Bros. He lived during a large part of each year in the Southern States of America, buying cotton and endeavouring to extend the business of the firm, which dealt largely in "Sea Islands."

According to old letters, Thomas was in Charleston, South Carolina, as early as 1819 as the agent for Joseph Smith & Bros.

Thomas writes in 1820 that trade in America is very dull, and "it is discouraging to think that I have not done enough business this year to pay my expenses." In this year he first mentions Mr. William Longsdon, of Longstone in Derbyshire, who became a lifelong and very intimate friend of the Smith family, and who at that time had a counting

house in Charleston. It was with this friend that John Benjamin Smith visited the Continent of Europe in 1835 (See page 59). Letters in 1826 show that Thomas was again in Charleston. "Cotton was low." "Corn very high." It is also worth recording as showing the uncertainty of communications with America at that time, that Thomas Smith writes from Charleston on February 6th, 1821, "We are now without news from England for 70 days." While in another letter he says, "News has come in the amazingly quick time of 17 days."

In 1827 Thomas returned to England early in the year, and in August, with his brother, John Benjamin, paid a visit to Harrogate. This visit led to important changes in his life.

The brothers started from Manchester on horseback, and soon the rain began to fall in torrents. They took shelter for a time, and then being uncertain whether to proceed or not they put the reins on the horses necks and left them to go whichever way they would. The horses turned towards Harrogate. "John" and "Tom" on their arrival there took up their abode at The Queen's Hotel, where they met Mr. Soulsby, of Winchmore Hill, Middlesex, and his beautiful daughter,

Elizabeth, with whom "Tom" fell violently in love. He at once started off to Winchmore Hill to make enquiries about the family, and finding everything satisfactory he plucked a rose from Mr. Soulsby's garden, returned to Harrogate, and presented it to the young lady.

At first Mr. Soulsby would not give his consent, but finally all was settled, and the romantic couple were married in September of the following year, 1828.

When first married Thomas Smith lived at Salford, Manchester, where his two eldest children, Elizabeth Soulsby and Mary Augusta, were born. William Arthur, the elder son, was born at Winchmore Hill, March 2nd, 1832. Writing to his brother John Benjamin from Winchmore Hill, March 24th, 1832, Thomas Smith says, "Elizabeth goes on nicely and the child [William Arthur] very well, he improves and threatens to be a fine fellow in due time." In the same letter he mentions that his father-in-law, Mr. Soulsby, is very ill, and that he and Mrs. Soulsby have to attend to him by turns, and that he will probably be absent from home for some months, he therefore begs his brother to prevent him being elected an overseer or Constable for the year.

About 1835 Thomas Smith removed to South Hill Grove, Toxteth Park, Liverpool, where his daughter Emma Jane was born. In Liverpool he had an office where he carried on business in connection with Benjamin Smith & Sons until about 1840. He then went to live for a short time at a house on Denmark Hill, from which his son, William Arthur, went to Cheam School.

About 1843 he bought Reigate Lodge, and in 1848 moved to London, where he bought 32 Gloucester Square, and afterwards 21 Hyde Park Square. Here Mrs. Thomas Smith died on May 13th, 1853, after a long and painful illness, from cancer, and the house was sold in 1859. In 1851 the beautiful estate of Colebrooke Park, Tonbridge, was purchased. The old house was pulled down in 1868, and part of the estate was sold to the Tunbridge Wells Corporation. A new house was built, which was completed in 1873 and occupied soon after by William Arthur Smith, Thomas Smith's only surviving son.

Thomas Smith was the last brother to leave the firm of Benjamin Smith & Sons. He retired in 1849 or 1850 when the business was handed over to his nephew, Edward Hardcastle, with Mr. Woodcock as partner.

#### PLATE XII.

THOMAS SMITH, FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.



PLATE XII.
THOMAS SMITH, FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.

Thomas Smith was a man of great ability and business capacity. When banking was comparatively in its infancy he was made one of the Managing Directors of the Bank of Liverpool, and on his retirement in 1838 he was presented with a large breakfast service and two silver trays, on which the following inscription was engraved:

To Thomas Smith, Esq.,
One of the Managing Directors of the
Bank of Liverpool.

Presented by the Proprietors of that Institution as a mark of grateful respect for his long continued attention to the interests confided to him, and in slight acknowledgment of that determination and judgment so successfully displayed throughout a period of extensive commercial difficulty.

Liverpool, 31st January, 1838.

He was one of the first Directors of the London and Birmingham Railway, which was afterwards incorporated in the London and North Western Railway. This position he held until he was stricken by paralysis.

He died at Colebrooke Park, on August 2nd, 1864, and was buried, as was also his wife, in Southborough Churchyard, not far from Tunbridge Wells.

# JOSEPH SMITH.

## 1800-1876.

See Pedigree, Table 5.

JOSEPH, the fourth son of Benjamin Smith, was born at or near Coventry on March 18th, 1800. He was a very handsome man, with a large quantity of red hair, which even to the time of his death still curled thickly over his head; he had a proud, aristocratic bearing, and was generally known in the family circle as "his lordship."

Joseph entered the office of Joseph Smith and Bros., and in 1820 went with his Uncle Joseph on a visit to Russia, with the object of establishing there a trade in twist.

On November 2nd, 1820, Thomas writes from New York to his brother John Benjamin in Manchester:

I hope my Uncle's journey to Russia will answer his warmest expectations and that he may be able to form connexions upon a safe and sure basis which may lead to valuable business. I almost envy

Joe his journey through such interesting countries as Sweden and Russia with so lively a companion as his Uncle. "His Lordship" [Joe], I hope, will look keenly about him and bring us a budget of information.

Some extracts from "Joe's" letters are of interest:

London, September 30, 1820.

We leave to-morrow [en route for Russia] from Gravesend in the Skipsey, Captain Laidler, an excellent vessel of 200 tons burthen. The captain has provided for us in princely style; we have ducks and fowls sufficient to last us a month, wine and every other requisite in the greatest abundance.

A letter from St. Petersburg to John Benjamin, dated December 7th, 1820, speaks of trying to get orders for twist and of going to see a Government manufactory of twist which was superintended by Mr. Wilson. He writes that he does not feel the cold more than in England. The letter is in most affectionate terms, and concludes with "much love to all at Ordsall and Strangeways."

Unfortunately no further letters from St. Petersburg remain, and no information is given

as to whether the journey was a success or not. A small diary mentions receiving a letter from Joe at Riga on February 1st, 1821. Again, "on 18th March, on his birthday, Joe arrives from Russia," and on May 28th Joseph, *Senr.*, arrives from Russia.

In 1831, Joseph married Augusta, daughter of John Gilliat, a well-known tobacco merchant, and had one son, Frederick.

When first married, Joseph Smith lived at The Crescent, Sandy Lane, Pendleton, afterwards at Beech House and Strawberry Hill, Pendleton; and about 1846 or 1847 he removed to The Oaks, a fine old historic estate which he bought near Epsom. From that time he devoted himself mainly to farming and to agricultural pursuits.

He died at The Oaks in 1876, his wife having died there the previous year, and both were buried in Woodmansterne Parish Churchyard.



# FREDERICK SMITH.

1806-1839.

See Pedigree, Tables 5, 10.

FREDERICK, Benjamin Smith's youngest child, was born at or near Coventry in 1806. He was familiarly known as "Dominie Sampson"; he was a student, always reading, always dreaming, always negligent in his dress. In early days the delight of his brothers was to put a "thief" into the candle to make it gutter down and then wait to see how long "Dominie Sampson" would continue reading before discovering the trick. Frederick lived a considerable part of his life in Charleston, South Carolina, where he carried on business in connection with the firm of Benjamin Smith & Sons. He married in 1832 a Charleston lady, Henrietta Ravenel Macbride.

In 1838 he returned to England suffering from consumption and died the following year, leaving three sons, Frederick James, George Macbride, and Benjamin John. See Pedigree,

Table 10. Benjamin John was virtually adopted by his Uncle Joseph. He went to Oxford, and was ordained a clergyman of the Church of England, and Frederick James and George Macbride were mainly brought up by their other two uncles.

### PLATE XIII.

ELIZA SMITH, FROM AN OIL PAINTING BY JAMES LONSDALE,
PAINTED IN 1821, IN THE POSSESSION OF MRS. EDWARD
HARDCASTLE, OF HAWKHURST.



PLATE XIII.

ELIZA SMITH, FROM AN OIL PAINTING BY JAMES LONSDALE,
PAINTED IN 1821, IN THE POSSESSION OF MRS. EDWARD
HARDCASTLE, OF HAWKHURST.

#### PLATE XIV.

ELIZA SMITH, FROM AN OIL PAINTING BY JAMES LONSDALE, PAINTED IN 1821, IN THE POSSESSION OF HENRY WILSON SMITH.



PLATE XIV.

ELIZA SMITH, FROM AN OIL PAINTING BY JAMES LONSDALE, PAINTED IN 1821, IN THE POSSESSION OF HENRY WILSON SMITH.

# ELIZA SMITH.

### 1802-1876.

See Pedigree, page 100, and Tables 5 and 8.

ELIZA, the elder daughter of Benjamin Smith, was born at or near Coventry, September 30th, 1802. She was tall and very handsome, with a noble presence. A long curl of hair hung down on each side of her neck, which her brothers, who were very proud of her, used teasingly to call her "heart breakers." At the age of eighteen, she married as his second wife Alfred Hardcastle, second son of Joseph Hardcastle, of Hatcham. See Pedigree, page 100. The wedding took place on May 31st, 1821, at the Collegiate Church, Manchester (now the Cathedral), and the following entries are taken from John Benjamin Smith's Diary:

1821.

May 28.—A. H. arrived. Fine.

" 29.—A. H. unwell.

,, 31.—Fine day. Eliza married.
A. H. very unwell. Brother and family dined.

June 1.—E. and A. set off. Fine.

Hatcham, the residence of Joseph Hard-castle, and afterwards of his son Alfred, was a large old house situated between Deptford and Camberwell, with a moat and a pair of fine old iron entrance gates. This house was then quite in the country and surrounded by an estate of about thirty acres of land. See Plate XV., page 96.

Joseph Hardcastle, Alfred's father, was a remarkable man. He was born at Leeds in 1752, and came to his uncle Nathaniel Hardcastle's office in London when he was fourteen years of age. Nathaniel Hardcastle had commenced in business as a "Russia Merchant" about 1750, and his eldest son, Joseph, for many years carried on the same business. The Bible Society had its origin in his office, where many well-known philanthropists, among them Wilberforce and Clarkson, were in the habit of meeting. He was also one of the chief founders of the London Missionary Society, of which he was the first treasurer.

Eliza Hardcastle and her husband, when first married, lived at 6 The Grove, Camberwell, close to her cousin Augusta, who had married in the previous year Nathaniel, third son of Joseph Hardcastle.

The following letter from Benjamin Smith to his son John Benjamin gives an interesting

# PLATE XV.

HATCHAM HOUSE, FROM A WATER COLOUR DRAWING

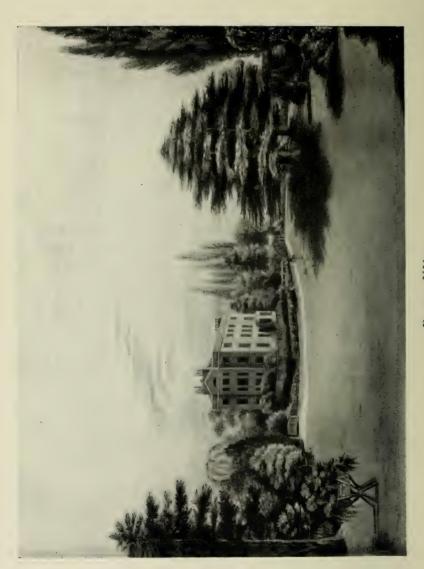


PLATE XV. HAICHAM HOUSE, FROM A WATER COLOUR DRAWING.

account of the two families and their surroundings:

Camberwell, August 22nd, 1821.

Dear John.

Arrived here last evening. Both Eliza and Augusta look very very well and have two excellent houses superbly fitted up and delightfully situated, as retired as in the country, for they have corn fields and ploughing within a very short distance. The Grove in which this house is situated is a magnificent object, about two-thirds of a mile long, composed of fine lofty elms. They have a charming view from the back of their house of the [Westminster] Abbey, etc., etc. Tom went with Alfred on Friday morning to see the Abbev and "Court-end" of the town. I stopped at home with Eliza, dined at five, and walked after tea. Sunday, went to Dr. Collings' Chapel, saw the family, except Mrs. H. Monday, saw St. Paul's and went by water at one o'clock to Greenwich; had a delightful sail down the river, and were much delighted with the shipping and other objects we saw in our passage down; reached Hatcham about five o'clock, where we dined. Most graciously received; all the family, with

Mr. and Mrs. Burden and children, were there; spent a very pleasant day. Yesterday, went to Hammersmith by Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, Kensington, and had a very pleasant ride, but could not get admittance to see the Queen's house. We returned in time to dine here with Mr. Ewbank and Mrs. Buck. Joseph [Hardcastle] would have been here, but some company unexpectedly arrived at Hatcham, which prevented him.

I expected you would have said whether Tom is to return to America; has my brother said nothing about it? It is now time it was determined. It is very pleasant for Eliza and Augusta to be so near each other: they are like two sisters and in and out of each other's houses a dozen times a day. Nat behaves very sociably. Tell your Aunt this, she will be glad to hear Augusta is so comfortably situated. To-day, I amused myself at the West end of the town in seeing the new street from Carlton House [Waterloo Place], the houses of which are superb beyond conception. Love to all at Ordsall and Strangeways.

> I remain, dear John, Your affectionate

> > В. Ѕмітн.

Eliza Hardcastle's three eldest children— Eliza Jane, Selina Emily, and Edward—were born at Camberwell. After the death of Mrs. Joseph Hardcastle (née Corsbie) in 1827, Eliza Hardcastle, with her husband and family, removed to Hatcham. Their son Edward was then a year old, and he and his sisters always loved the old home with a passionate devotion. They were a wonderfully happy and united family party. In 1842, on March 7th, all was suddenly changed, and Alfred Hardcastle died after a very short illness from internal chill. The following year Mrs. Alfred Hardcastle removed to Hampstead, and she lived there until 1857, when she bought New Lodge, Hawkhurst, where she died in 1876.

<sup>[</sup>A Pedigree showing the connection of the Brothers Hardcastle is printed on the following leaf.]

Table showing the connection of the three brothers Hardcastle.

# JOSEPH HARDCASTLE = B at Leeds, 1752

(Came to his uncle in London when 14 years old. Bought Hatcham House, 1788 and Died there, 1819) ANNE CORSBIE of Bury St. Edmunds D at Hatcham, 1827

JOSEPH
B .....-D 1842
Unmarried

ALFRED B May 3, 1791 D March 7, 1842

Twice Married

i. ANNE HURRY

= May 31, 1821 ii. ELIZA SMITH B Sept. 30, 1802 D April 1, 1876

Issue 4 children

(See Table 8)

NATHANIEL B 1793—D 1838

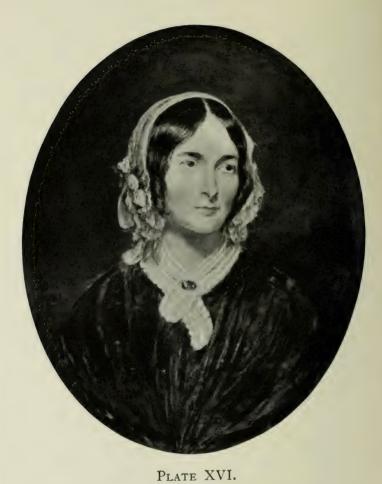
= in 1820 AUGUSTA SMITH (Daughter of JOSEPH SMITH) B 1802—D 1859

Issue 3 children

(See Table 11)

### PLATE XVI.

Jane Gardom, née Smith, from a Pastel Picture by Duval.



JANE GARDOM, née SMITH, FROM A PASTEL PICTURE BY DUVAL.

# JANE SMITH.

### 1804—1878.

See Pedigree, Tables 5-9.

JANE (Jennie), the younger daughter of Benjamin Smith, was born at or near Coventry, December 31st, 1804. She was extremely pretty, with an abundance of auburn hair, which, as a child, curled all over her head; so beautiful was she that when out with her nurse, people would stop and ask to kiss her. Her brother John Benjamin likened her to the pictures of the Angel Gabriel. With the exception of John Benjamin and Frederick, the whole family were exceptionally handsome. "Jennie" was the useful daughter of the family. It was she who looked after the house, took care of her brothers, "cut out their shirts," and tended them if they were ill. John and "Jennie" were devotedly attached to each other, and lived together for several years at Islington, Manchester. Jane married on 1st July, 1830, Mr. George Gardom, of Baslow, Derbyshire. Mr. Thomas James says in his Diary:

July 5th, 1830. Yesterday I received the "Manchester Guardian" of Saturday, July 3rd. Married, on the 1st inst., at St. John's Church, by the Rev. Hugh Stowell, M.A., Mr. George Gardom, Surgeon, Salford, to Jane, daughter of Benjamin Smith, Esq.

Jane Gardom had two sons and five daughters. See Pedigree, Table 9. None of the family, excepting the eldest son, married, and he left no children. During the whole of her married life she had delicate health, and she spent much of her time at Baguley, where a small house had been bought for the benefit of her health. Up to the time of Mr. Gardom's death in 1855, the family residence was at The Crescent, Salford. Afterwards the family lived entirely at Baguley, where Jane (Mrs. Gardom) took a keen interest in the market gardeners, and defended them legally against the threatened loss of their rights. She was one of the first, if not the first woman to be made a Poor Law Guardian, an office which she filled with great ability.

Both Jane and her sister Eliza were educated at the school of Miss Edwards at Wem.





PLATE XVII.

WEM SCHOOL MEDAL GIVEN TO JANE SMITH.

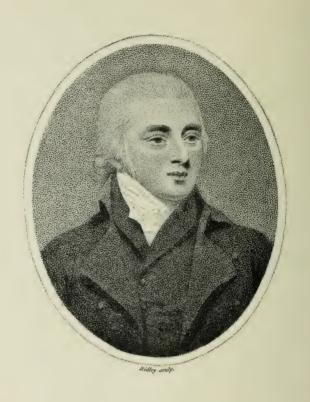
PLATE XVII.

WEM SCHOOL MEDAL GIVEN TO JANE SMITH.

### PLATE XVIII.

REV. JOSEPH SMITH, MANCHESTER.

Facsimile of a Portrait in the "Evangelical Magazine," April, 1800.



Rev. JOSEPH SMITH.

Manchester.

Published by T.Chopman 25% Fleet Street, April 2800.

PLATE XVIII.

# JOSEPH SMITH.

### 1772-1845.

See Pedigree, Tables 5, 11.

JOSEPH, the fourth and youngest son of James Smith, was baptised at Coventry on May 25th, 1772. The register of his birth is at Holy Trinity Church. He also was a Coventry manufacturer, but at the age of twenty-six he relinquished business and became an Independent Minister.

In 1798, he removed to Manchester (See "Lancashire Nonconformity," by the Rev. Benjamin Nightingale, vol. 5, 1893, pp. 138-9) and there succeeded the Rev. Thomas Kennedy as Minister of the Mosley Street Independent Church, now represented by Cavendish Congregational Church, which was then, and is still, the leading Church of that denomination in Manchester proper. He does not seem to have received any collegiate education.

His ordination took place in September, 1798, of which the following account has been

preserved in the "Evangelical Magazine" of that year, p. 478:

Wednesday, September 12th, 1798, the Rev. Joseph Smith was ordained (by imposition of hands) to the pastoral charge of the Independent Church, Mosley Street, Manchester. Mr. Sowder, of Sowerby, gave out the hymns. Mr. Roby, of Manchester, began with prayer and reading suitable Scriptures. The Rev. Mr. Edwards, of Wem, explained the nature of a gospel church, and received the confession of faith. Mr. Medley, of Liverpool, prayed the ordination prayer. Mr. Emans, of Coventry, gave the charge from 2 Timothy iv. 1, 2. Mr. Burder, of Coventry, preached to the people from Eph. iii. 21, and Mr. Anglezark, of Stockport, concluded with prayer.

The MS. History of Mosley Street Independent Chapel says:

Mr. Joseph Smith was exceedingly popular as a preacher, and drew together large congregations, but the rupture of several blood-vessels, which speedily threatened his dissolution, led to his resignation in January, 1801.

### PLATE XIX.

JOHN WHITTENBURY, FROM AN OIL PAINTING IN THE POSSESSION OF HIS GREAT-GRANDSON,

DR. EUSTACE SMITH.

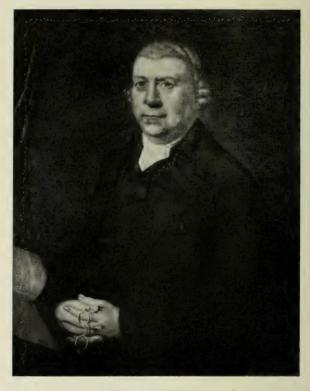


PLATE XIX.

John Whittenbury, from an Oil Painting in the possession of his great-grandson,

Dr. Eustace Smith.

# PLATE XX.

Mrs. John Whittenbury, from an Oil Painting in the possession of her great-grandson,

Dr. Eustace Smith.



MRS. JOHN WHITTENBURY, FROM AN OIL PAINTING IN THE POSSESSION OF HER GREAT-GRANDSON,

DR. EUSTACE SMITH.

He was seized with hemorrhage from the lungs when in the pulpit, and was unable to continue the service.

In the "Evangelical Magazine" for April, 1800, there is an engraving of the Rev. Joseph Smith, and he is there depicted as a young man, very handsome, with his hair dressed wig-fashion. See Plate XVIII., page 108.

Among the congregation at Mosley Street Chapel was Mr. John Whittenbury, a wealthy cotton merchant, and a great admirer of the young preacher. On February 12th, 1800, his daughter Elizabeth Augusta was married to the Rev. Joseph Smith. The ceremony was solemnised in the Collegiate and Parish Church of Manchester, and was witnessed by Robert Spear (the Parish Clerk), P. Whittenbury, and J. Whittenbury. The writing of P. Whittenbury is that of a girl, and was probably the signature of the bride's sister Patience.

After Joseph Smith's health broke down in 1801, he retired from the Ministry and is said to have entered Mr. Whittenbury's office, but it is certain that he was in business on his own account as early as 1808, as a cotton merchant.

The following entries are in the Manchester and Salford Directory for 1804:

Smith, Rev. Joseph, 17 Cooper's Row.

Whittenbury, John, & Co., Cotton Merchants, I Pall Mall.

Joseph may have been the Company.

In the Directory of 1811 is the following entry:

Smith, Joseph, cotton merchant, 8 Back Square.

In 1813, "John Whittenbury" had ceased to be "Whittenbury & Co."

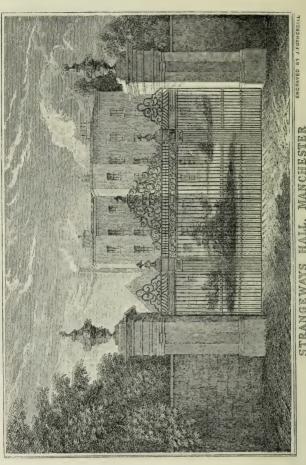
Mr. John Whittenbury, the father-in-law of Joseph Smith, was one of the many who advanced money to Mr. (afterwards Sir) Richard Arkwright, to make experiments in cotton spinning, and it was largely through his assistance that Arkwright built the first cotton mill in Manchester.

By the connivance of Arkwright, the machinery was continually breaking down, and Mr. Whittenbury, having lost much money, withdrew in disgust. Almost immediately afterwards the mill began to prosper, and Arkwright soon became a wealthy man.

During this time of disappointment Mr. Whittenbury had a daughter born to him, whom he named Patience. She married Mr.

### PLATE XXI.

STRANGEWAYS HALL, MANCHESTER, THE RESIDENCE OF JOSEPH SMITH, AND AFTERWARDS OF HIS SON, JUNIUS.



STRANGEWAYS HALL, MANCHESTER

# STRANGEWAYS HALL, MANCHESTER, THE RESIDENCE OF JOSEPH SMITH, AND AFTERWARDS OF HIS SON, JUNIUS.

PLATE XXI.

Hurry, and thus by a curious combination became Mrs. Patience Hurry.

In 1811, Joseph Smith inhabited a house called "The Farm," at Ordsall, some little distance out of Manchester, but before 1819 he had removed to Strangeways Hall, a fine old house which he rented from the Earl of Ducie. See Plate XXI.

This house was afterwards sold for the erection of the Assize Courts, and the splendid old iron gates, which were originally brought from Rome, were removed to Peel Park, Salford, where they now adorn the principal entrance.

The engraving of Strangeways Hall, of which a reproduction is here given (See Plate XXI., opposite), forms the frontispiece of a volume of "Original Poems on Miscellaneous Subjects," published in 1847 by Charles Kenworthy, and dedicated to Junius Smith, of Strangeways Hall. In this engraving the Smith crest and coat-of-arms appear on the top of the gate. On page 132 an engraving of an impression of the seal used by the firm of Benjamin Smith & Sons will also be found. The poetry is for the most part extremely poor, but there is a long poem describing Strangeways Hall, and the book ends with a panegyric addressed to "Junius Smith, Esq."

The same author wrote a rather severe skit on Joseph Smith in a book of Satires, published in Manchester in 1808.

Joseph Smith was a great connoisseur of port wine, in consequence of which he suffered severely from gout. Indeed, so large were the chalk stones on his finger joints that he could write his name on a slate with them. When his son Junius left Strangeways Hall, a large pillar in the wine cellar was found to encase fifty dozen of port wine, which sold by auction for one guinea a bottle.

Joseph Smith left Strangeways Hall about 1839, and took up his residence at Milverton Lodge, Leamington, where he died April 3rd, 1845. He and his wife and his son Horatio were buried in an altar tomb in Old Milverton Churchyard.

Joseph Smith had one daughter and four sons. See Pedigree, Table XI. Augusta, born 1802, John Henry, 1804, Junius, 1806, Augustus, 1808, Horatio, 1812. He used to say that Smith was such a common surname, that he was obliged to give his sons distinguishing Christian names.

Augusta was pretty and attractive. See Plate XXIV., page 126. She was a great favourite both with her brothers and her cousins. In 1820 she married Nathaniel Hardcastle, third

### PLATE XXII.

Joseph Smith, from an Oil Painting in the possession of his grandson, Dr. Eustace Smith.



PLATE XXII.

JOSEPH SMITH, FROM AN OIL PAINTING IN THE POSSESSION OF HIS GRANDSON, DR. EUSTACE SMITH.

# PLATE XXIII.

Mrs. Joseph Smith, née Whittenbury, from an Oil Painting in the possession of her grandson,

Dr. Eustace Smith.



PLATE XXIII.

Mrs. Joseph Smith, née Whittenbury, from an Oil Painting in the possession of her grandson,

Dr. Eustace Smith.

### PLATE XXIV.

Augusta Smith, from a Pencil Sketch said to have been made by Thomas Smith.



PLATE XXIV.

Augusta Smith, from a Pencil Sketch said to have been made by Thomas Smith.

son of Joseph Hardcastle, of Hatcham, and went to live at The Grove, Camberwell, not far from her father-in-law's house.

John Henry, born 1804, the eldest son of Joseph Smith, spent four years in his father's office, but his tastes were literary, and he went to Christ's College, Cambridge, and studied for the bar.

Mr. Thomas James says in his Diary, February 16th, 1827:

Henry has taken his degree of B.A., has finished at Cambridge, and goes to London in April: he has been there before.

After taking his degree at Cambridge, he lived in Chambers in the Temple, sharing them with Samuel Warren, the author of the novel entitled "Ten Thousand a Year." He was called to the Bar, and practised as a barrister for a few years, having entered the Northern Circuit, of which, at that time, Lord Brougham was the leader; but he was disgusted with what he considered the dishonesty of the barrister's life. In 1831 he took his M.A. degree, and in 1833, or 1834, he left the Bar and was ordained a clergyman of the Church of England. On first taking orders he became a curate at the Church in Vere Street,

London, where he preached his first sermon. In 1841, he left London, and became Vicar of Old Milverton, near Leamington, a very poor living with a stipend of only £50 a year.

He held, in addition to this living, the tenancy of Milverton Chapel in Leamington, where his eloquent preaching attracted, morning and evening, large and devoted congregations. The services at Old Milverton were conducted by one of his curates.

John Henry Smith retired from active work a few years before his death. He was twice married, firstly to Mary Ann Seale, by whom he had seven children. His third son, Dr. Eustace Smith, is the well-known Children's Doctor.

He married secondly Mrs. Elizabeth Palmer, a widow lady whose maiden name was Raban, by whom he had no children. He died at Leamington, June 16th, 1883, and was buried in Old Milverton Churchyard.

Junius, Augustus, and Horatio, the other sons of Joseph Smith, were all in the business of Joseph Smith & Brothers, and when their father retired, Junius and Horatio carried on the firm under the old title.

The intercourse between the children of Joseph and of Benjamin Smith was very intimate, and many were the pleasant merry

## PLATE XXV.

JOHN HENRY SMITH, FROM AN OIL PAINTING IN THE POSSESSION OF HIS SON, DR. EUSTACE SMITH.

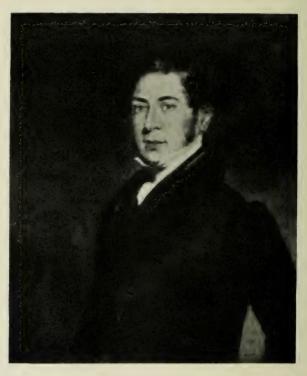


PLATE XXV.

JOHN HENRY SMITH, FROM AN OIL PAINTING IN THE POSSESSION OF HIS SON, DR. EUSTACE SMITH.

hours spent between the cousins, and many the harmless practical jokes they played. "Cousin John" was always staid and studious, appearing older than he really was, but "Cousin Tom" was full of fun. He spoke the Lancashire dialect to perfection, and one of his great pleasures was to dress up as a countryman, pay a visit to his friends and thoroughly deceive them.

The firm of Joseph Smith & Sons, cotton merchants, appears in the Manchester and Salford Directory for the last time in 1848. The office was then in Red Lion Street, St. Ann's Square.

The firm of Benjamin Smith & Sons was not finally closed until July 27th, 1895. Originally the firm occupied an office and warehouse in Cotton Court, then removed to Back Square, and finally to the Royal Exchange, No. 6 North Corridor.

The number of Elizas and Elizabeths in the family is extraordinary. Benjamin Smith says in a letter to his son John Benjamin, "Elizabeth [he counts Eliza and Elizabeth as the same] is a lucky name in our family. There are eight of them." Even later generations continued to marry Elizabeths. There seemed to be a fascination in the name.



 $\label{eq:plate_XXVI.}$  Seal used by the Firm of Benjamin Smith & Sons.

### TABLE 1.

# Key to Pedigrees.

JAMES

JAMES

Baptd. Jan. 31, 1731

D Nov. 19, 1794

Twice married

i. Miss ....... BROMWICH

- i. Miss ...... BROMWICH (See Table 2)
- ii. ELIZA[BETH] BUCKNALL
  B ......—D July 23, 1810
  (See Table 5)



## TABLE 2.

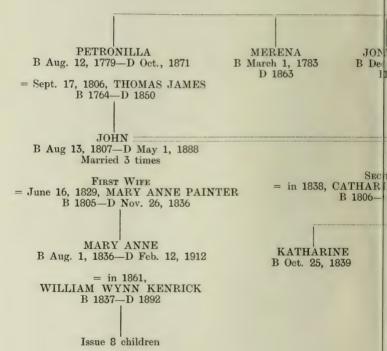
Continued from Table 1.

## TABLE 2.

JAM Baptd.

FIRST WIFE-

B 1753—D July



(See Table 3)

SMITH n. 31, 1731 19, 1794

..... BROMWICH

THA = in 1776, Rev. PETER EDWARDS, of Wem , 1825 | B July 23, 1751—D Aug. 25, 1833

THAN ENEAS THEOPHILUS ELIZABETH
9, 1788 B July 24, 1791 D young D young
B D abroad

WIFE = in 1851, Feb. 5, 1843

SARAH BLANCHE B 1841—D 1843 THIRD WIFE

in 1851, ANNE ELIZABETH FARRER

B 1823—D 1875

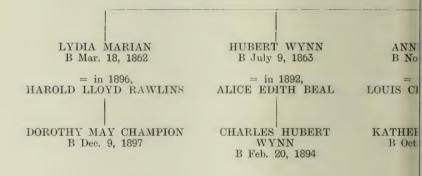
Issue 5 children
(See Table 4)

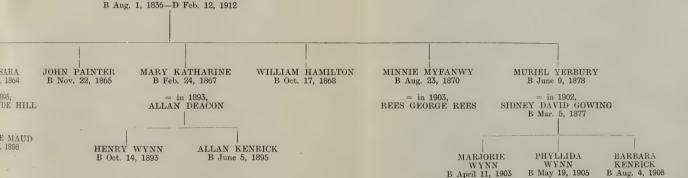


## TABLE 3.

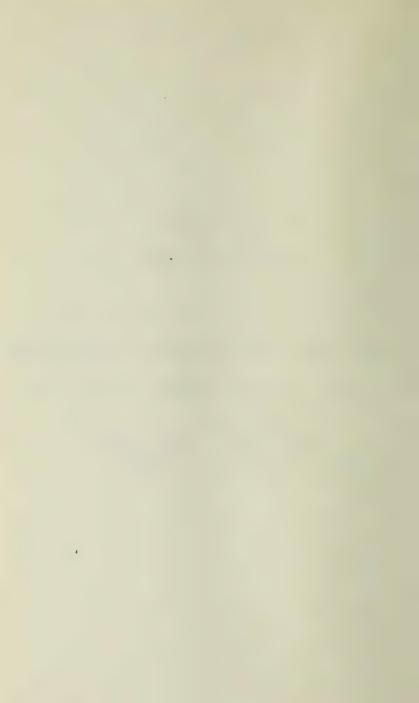
Continued from Table 2.

## TABLE 3.





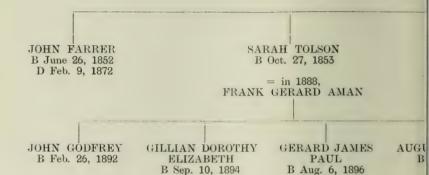
WILLIAM WYNN KENRICK B 1837—D 1892 = in 1861, MARY ANNE JAMES



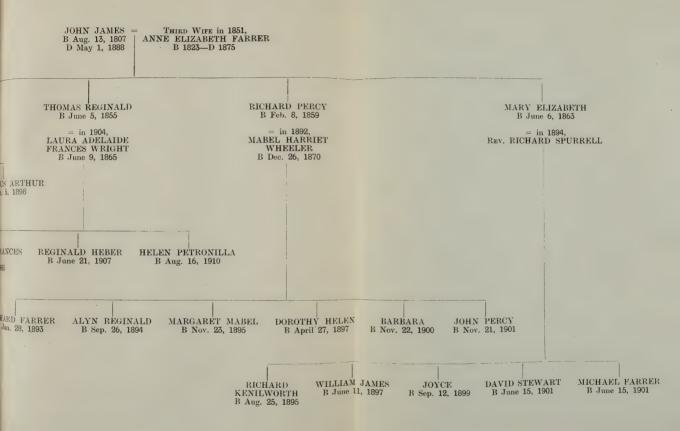
# TABLE 4.

Continued from Table 2.

## TABLE 4.



GWENDOLEN MYR B Mar. &

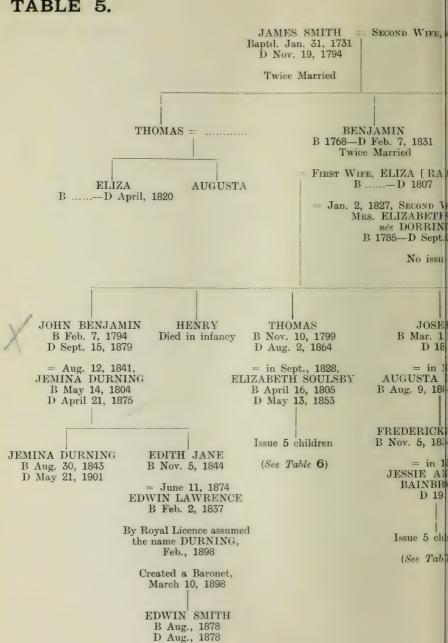




## TABLE 5.

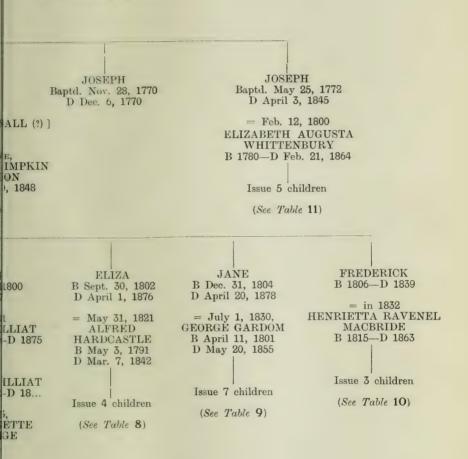
Continued from Table 1.

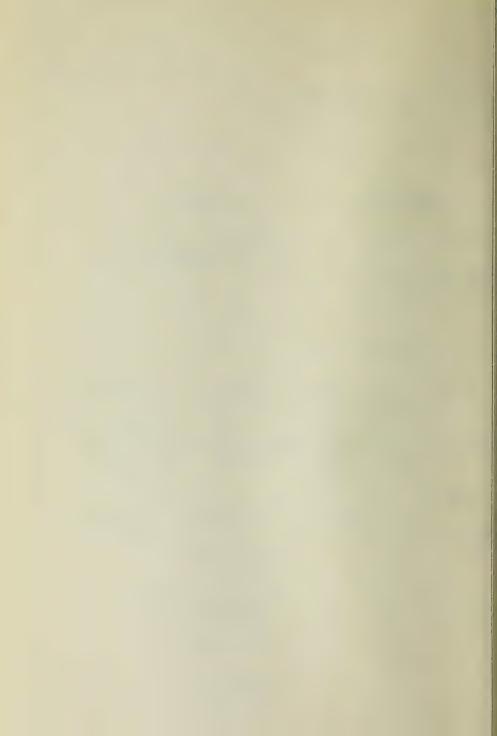
### TABLE 5.



#### ı. 5, 1765, ELIZA[BETH] BUCKNALL B .....—D July 23, 1810

en





# TABLE 6.

Continued from Table 5.

### TABLE 6.

THOMAS SMITH B Nov. 10, 1799—D Aug. 2, 1864

ELIZABETH SOULSBY B 1829 D Mar. 22, 1892

Dec. 9, 1852
WILLIAM BENSON
B Aug. 3, 1816
D Jan. 31, 1887

MARY AUGUSTA B Feb. 8, 1831 D May 27, 1904

WILLIAM ARTHUR SMITH B Oct. 17, 1854

= Oct. 26, 1886, VENETIA MARGARET HUNT

No issue

MARGARET ELIZABETH B May 14, 1856

= Oct. 2, 1879, ALGERNON HENEAGE DRUMMOND B July 1, 1844

Issue 9 children

(See Table 12)

CECIL FOSTER B Sept. 29, 1857

= Feb. 15, 1881 CONSTANCE MARY O'NEILL B May 8, 1860

Issue 2 children

(See Table 13)

= in

CI

t., 1828, ELIZABETH SOULSBY B April 16, 1805—D May 13, 1853

LLIAM ARTHUR 3 March 2, 1832

= Sept. 10, 1861, LEN MAITLAND WILSON

ENRY WILSON B July 12, 1862

= Nov. 1888, TANCE MAITLAND WILSON

ILLIAM HENRY WILSON B Nov. 26, 1889 EMMA JANE B April 1, 1835 D Dec. 28, 1870

HENRY EVELYN B April 26, 1838 D Feb. 10, 1858

'RANCIS ROBERT' B Nov. 4, 1858

= July 24, 1886 TRUDE CONSTANCE ATHERSTONHAUGH

Issue 2 children

(See Table 14)

AGNES MARY B April, 1861

= Sept. 12, 1883, GEORGE HEYWOOD MAUNOIR SUMNER B April 6, 1861

Issue 5 children

(See Table 15)

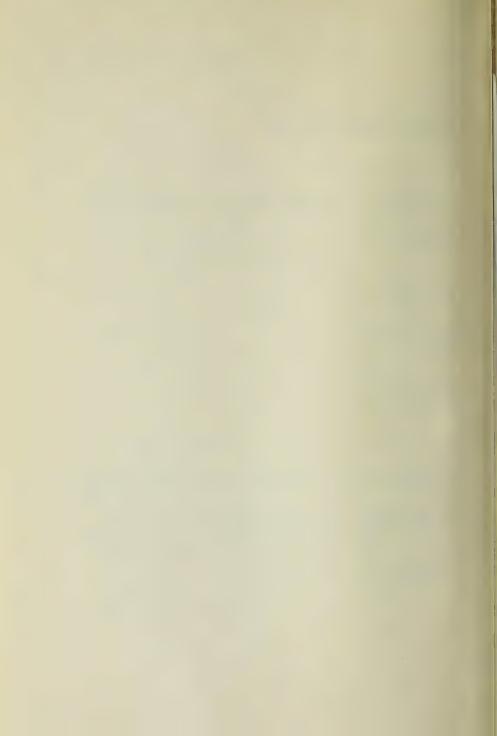
GODFREY RATHBONE B Nov. 6, 1864

Created Lord Charnwood, June 29, 1911

= May 11, 1897, DOROTHEA MARY ROBY THORPE B Mar. 20, 1876

Issue 4 children

(See Table 16)



#### FREDERICK GILLIAT SMITH B Nov. 5, 1832—D 18...

in 1853, JESSIE ANNETTE BAINBRIDGE B .....---D 19...

Issue 5 children

i. ALICE AUGUSTA - EDMUND GRAY SKINNER

Issue 5 girls

ii. FREDERICK ERNEST GILLIAT - ELEANOR COCKERELL

Issue 2 boys, 1 girl

iii. HAROLD GILLIAT = SYBIL GROVES

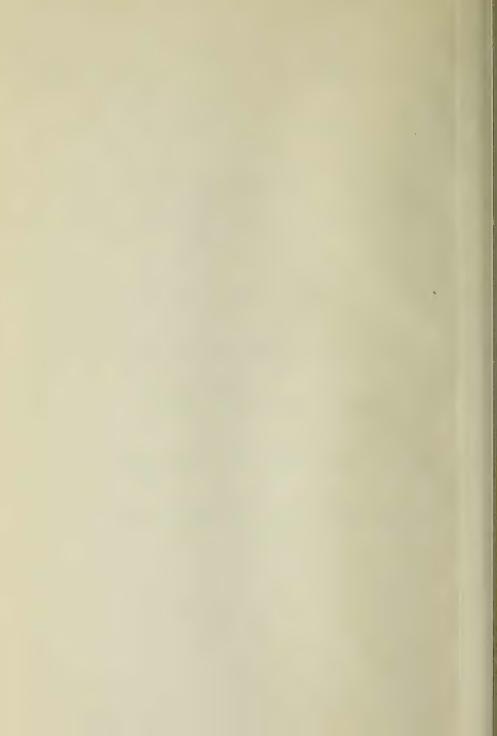
ARTHUR

iv. LILIAN GILLIAT - CHRISTOPHER COCKRAN, M.D.

Issue 1 boy, 1 girl

v. MABEL GILLIAT = (Rev.) EDWARD ARKLE

Issue 2 girls



## TABLE 8.

Continued from Table 5.

ELIZA JANE B 1822—D 1904

SELINA EMILY B 1824—D 1908

= JAMES COSMO MELVILL B 1821—D 1880

Issue 8 children

i. JAMES COSMO = in 1874, BERTHA DEWHURST B 1845

i. MARION SYBIL = in 1899, HERBERT BURY B 1875  $\mid$  B 1871

HERBERT GEOFFREY ST. JOHN B 1900 ELIZABETH PHYLLIS B 1903

- ii. JAMES COSMO DOBRÉE, B 1877
- iii. MALCOLM GEORGE DEWHURST = in 1909, MARJORIE E MATHEH

MICHAEL ERNEST B 1910

- iv. GLADYS BERTHA = in 1907, ERNEST RUTHVEN SYKES
  B 1883
  B 1867
- v. GWENDOLEN MARGARET = in 1907, JOSEPH BRODIE H B 1885
- vi. DOROTHEA JEAN, B 1892
- ii. ALFRED HARDCASTLE, B 1851-D 1852
- iii. (Rev.) ARTHUR HARDCASTLE, B 1853
- iv. MARION ELIZA, B 1848
- v. EVELYN HESTER, B 1850
- vi. EMMA WILHELMINA JEAN, B 1855-D 1877
- vii. SELINA EMILY, B 1857—D 1885
- viii. EDITH MARY, B 1859

PRI

May 31, 1821, ELIZA SMITH B Sept. 30, 1802—D April 1, 1876

EDWARD B 1826—D 1905 ANNE EMMA HALDANE B 1836—D 1873

= in 1851 LLA BUXTON HOARE B 1832 = in 1864 SIR WILLIAM JAMES HERSCHEL, BART. B Jan., 1833 |

Issue 10 children

(See Table 17)

MARGARET ELIZA EMMA B 1865—D 1880 EMMA DOROTHEA B 1867 (REV.) JOHN CHARLES WILLIAM B 1869

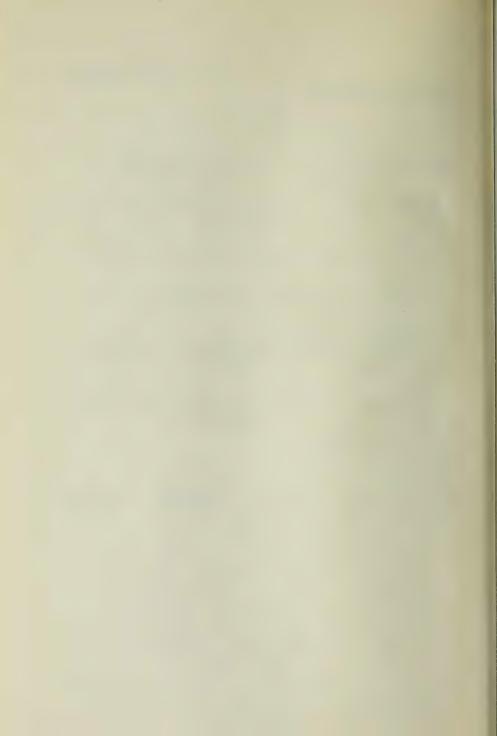
= in 1908 CATHARINE MARGARET BROWELL ARTHUR EDWARD HARDCASTLE

= in 1904, ELLEN KATHERINE MACARTNEY

EILEEN DOROTHEA B 1905 CAROLINE WINIFRED B 1906 MARGARET EUNICE B 1909

ГН

RE



GEORGE GARDOM B April 11, 1801—D May 20, 1855

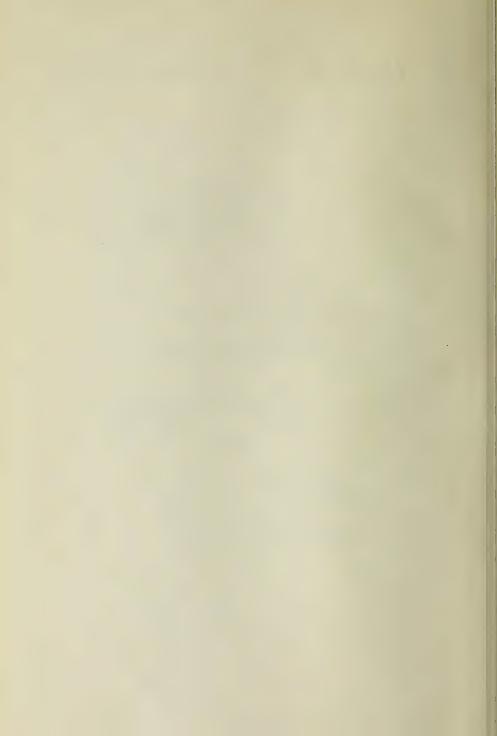
July 1, 1830, JANE SMITHB Dec. 31, 1804—D April 20, 1878

Issue 7 children

- i. MARY JANE B Aug. 7, 1831—D Feb. 19, 1900
- ELIZA AUGUSTA
   B Sept. 3, 1833—D Mar. 12, 1911
- iii. EMILY B Feb., 1835—D Nov., 1835
- iv. GEORGE FREDERICK = ELIZABETH CHRISTIANA

  B Sept. 1, 1836
  D Oct. 25, 1901 | RUBIE
  B Feb. 15, 1836
  D Mar. 23, 1912

  No issue
- v. SARAH EMILY B Nov. 9, 1837
- vi. CATHARINE B Nov. 20, 1839—D June 18, 1882
- vii. THOMAS ALFRED B May 31, 1842—D Jan. 7, 1848



#### FREDERICK SMITH B 1806—D 1839

= in 1832,
HENRIETTA RAVENEL MACBRIDE
B 1815—D 1863

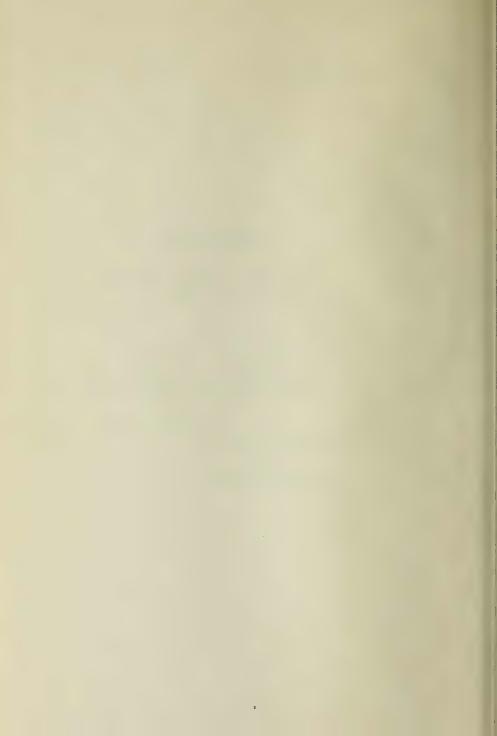
i. FREDERICK JAMES = ANNIE BREWSTER B 1833—D 18... | B 18...—D 18...

## HENRIETTA

ii. GEORGE MACBRIDE B 1835—D 18...

Issue 3 children

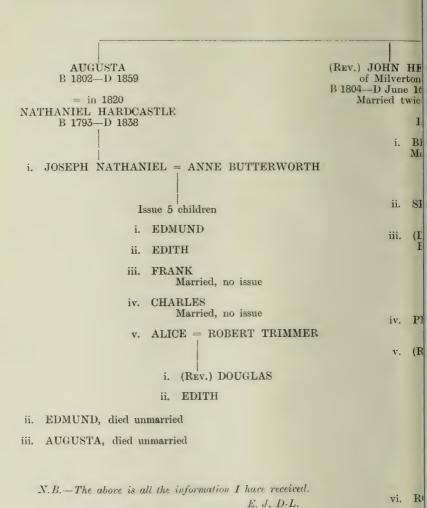
iii. BENJAMIN JOHN B Nov. 12, 1837



# TABLE 11.

Continued from Table 5.

# TABLE 11.



vii. A

Baptd. May 25, 1772 D April 3, 1845

JOSEPH SMITH = Feb. 12, 1800, ELIZABETH AUGUSTA WHITTENBURY B 1780-D Feb. 21, 1864

RY = FIRST WIFE, MARY ANN SEALE B 1807-D April 20, 1864

SECOND WIFE, ELIZABETH PALMER née RABAN

ne 7 children No issue

KELEY = FIRST WIFE, GRACE BLENKINSOPP

SECOND WIFE, ANNIE EDWARDS

No issue

ried twice

WSER THEYRE, unmarried B 1834-D 1911

EUSTACE = in 1875, KATHERINE I. PLACE Oct. 24, 1835 B July 21, 1850

i. DOROTHY WINIFRED, B Sept. 30, 1876 ii. GEOFFREY EUSTACE, B Sept. 3, 1883

LIP HENRY, unmarried

B 1844—D 1876 T.) CLARENCE = in 1884, AMY MILNE

Jan. 14, 1846 N.B.—In 1911 took the name of THEYRE

i. VIOLET, B 1885

ii. BERTHA, Died in infancy

iii. SPENSER, B 1895

iv. MARGARET, B 1897

REMILY = THOMAS GARNER

No issue

LOUISA = GEORGE STRACHAN DAVIDSON

No issue

JUNIUS B 1806

D Feb. 4, 1867

= in 1860. JANE STALLARD

i. STELLA B 1861—D 1864

ii. ROWENA

iii. GERALDINE LINDSEY

= KENNETH MACDONALD of Skeabost

AUGÚSTUS B May 3, 1808 D Aug. 13, 1888

HORATIO B 1812-D Oct. 8, 1853 Unmarried

= SARAH BUTTERWORTH B May 2, 1814 D May 29, 1886

Issue 2 children

i. AUGUSTUS HENRY SMITH B Nov. 18, 1835

> = Sept. 20, 1883 ANNIE BEATRICE ETCHES B Mar. 23, 1858

> > Issue 5 children

i. HAMILTON AUGUSTUS HAIGH B Oct. 21, 1884

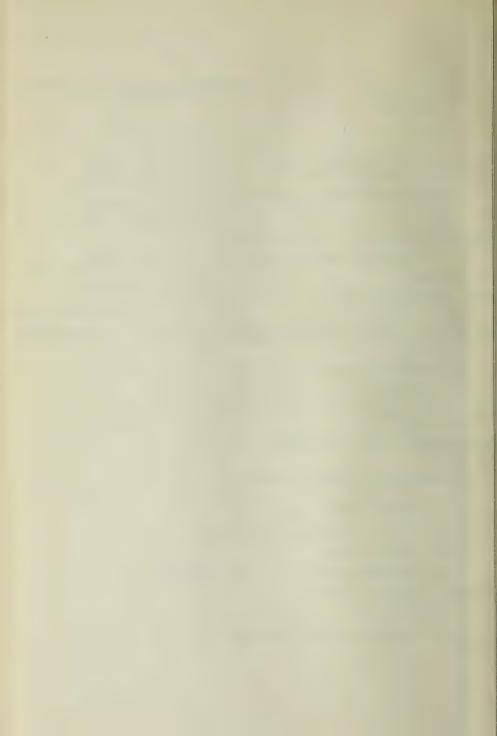
ii. MURRAY THOROLD B Dec. 18, 1885

iii. BEATRICE SARAH BULLEN B Jan. 4, 1887

iv. KATHLEEN ADA B July 31, 1888

v. NEVILL HARDCASTLE B Oct. 13, 1889

ii. ADA AUGUSTA B Aug. 30, 1841



### ALGERNON HENEAGE DRUMMOND B July 1, 1844

MARGARET ELIZABETH BENSON B May 14, 1856

Issue 9 children

- i. ALGERNON CECIL HENEAGE B Aug. 20, 1880
- ii. BARBARA B Sept. 28, 1881
- iii. SPENCER HENEAGE B Aug. 12, 1884
- iv. GEOFFREY HENEAGE B Jan. 25, 1886
- v. ISOBEL = Jan. 18, 1906, NEVILLE PHIPPS
  B July 16, 1887

JOAN B Jan., 1907

- vi. JOSCELINE HENEAGE B Aug. 4, 1888
- vii. FREDERICK BOYD HENEAGE B Feb. 15, 1890
- viii. MORTIMER

  B Feb. 16, 1892

  D Mar, 5, 1911
- ix. MAURICE B Sept. 18, 1894

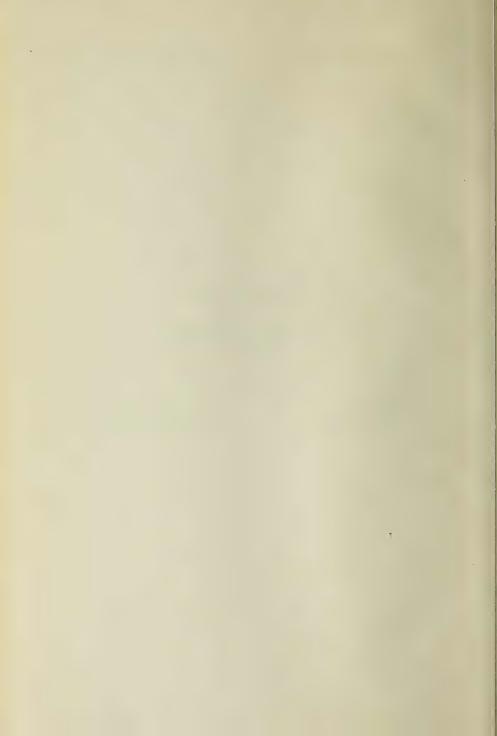


CECIL FOSTER BENSON B Sept. 29, 1857

= Feb. 15, 1881, CONSTANCE MARY O'NEILL B May 8, 1860

HUGH CECIL B July 3, 1883

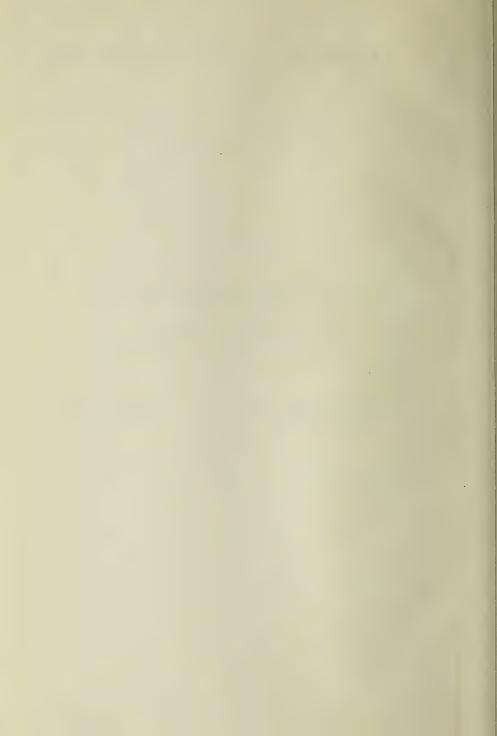
RALPH FRANCIS B Aug. 15, 1885



## FRANCIS ROBERT BENSON B Nov. 4, 1858

= July 24, 1886 GERTRUDE CONSTANCE FEATHERSTONHAUGH

ERIC WILLIAM B May 8, 1887 BRYNHILD LUCY B Aug. 30, 1888

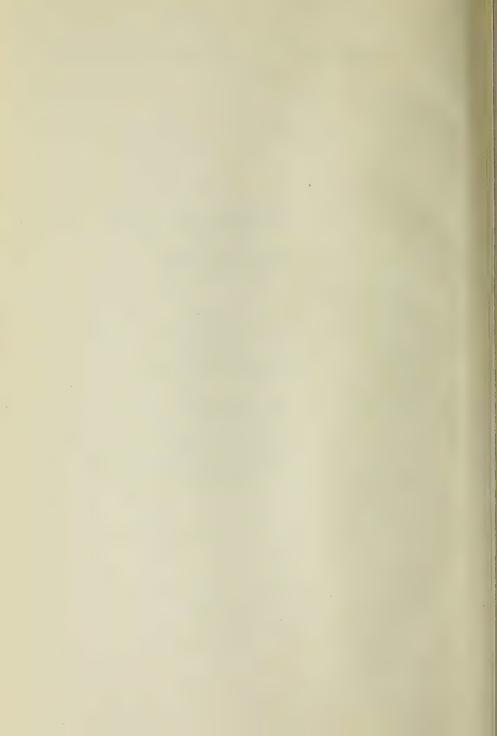


### GEORGE HEYWOOD MAUNOIR SUMNER B April 6, 1861

Sept. 12, 1883 AGNES MARY BENSON B April, 1861

Issue 5 children

- i. MICHAEL GEORGE B June 1, 1885
- ii. DOROTHEA MARGARET B Nov. 27, 1886
- iii. BEATRIX MARY B Sept. 2, 1888
- iv. BENEDICT HUMPHREY B Aug. 9, 1893
- v. CHRISTOPHER RICHARD BENSON B May 4, 1896



### GODFREY RATHBONE BENSON B Nov. 6, 1864

Created Lord Charnwood of Castle Donnington, Leicestershire, June 29, 1911

> May 11, 1897 DOROTHEA MARY ROBY THORPE B Mar. 20, 1876

> > Issue 4 children

- i. JOHN ROBY B Aug. 31, 1901
- ii. ANTONIA MARY B Oct. 6, 1903
- iii. ELEANOR THEODORA B Aug. 21, 1906
- iv. CHRISTOPHER GODFREY ASQUITH B Nov. 5, 1910



# TABLE 17.

Continued from Table 8.

EDWARD HARDCASTLE = in 188

Issue 10 children

i. LOUISA EMILY = in 1876, EDWARD A. HOARE B 1854

Issue 2 children

- i. EDWARD GEOFFREY B 1880
- ii. JOHN EDWARD B 1886
- ii. EVELYN LUCY, unmarried B 1855
- iii. ALFRED = in 1892, CAROLINE F. LOYD
  B 1857

Issue 2 children

- i. ALFRED EDWARD LOYD B 1893
- ii. JOSEPH ANTHONY LOYD B 1899
- iv. KATHARINE PARRY B 1858
- v. MARY AUGUSTA = in 1882, CHARLES ANNESLEY HAMOND B 1860

Issue 4 children

i. PHILIP = in 1909, RITA HAMMOND B 1883  $\parallel$ 

ANTHONY B 1911

- ii. CHARLES EDWARD = in 1911, VERA LEGGATT B 1886
- iii. ANTHONY ROBERT B 1889—D 1907
- iv. RICHENDA MARY B 1895

vi. (Rev.) EDWARD HOARE = FIRST WIFE, in 1891, H. M. CROMPTON B 1862

Twice Married No issue

= SECOND WIFE, in 1900, HON. ALICE GOSCHEN

Issue 5 children

- i. MARY, B 1901
- ii. MARTIN EDWARD, B 1902
- iii. MONICA ALICE, B 1904
- iv. MARGARET IRIS, B 1907
- v. MILDRED FELICITY, B 1909
- vii. MELVILL JOSEPH B 1863
- viii. PRISCILLA BEATRICE B 1864
- ix. SELINA WINIFRED B 1869
- x. MARJORY THEODORA B 1876

